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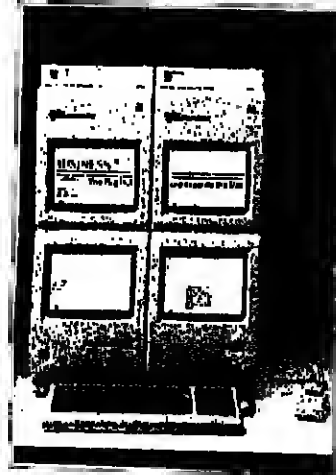
A flood of applications to be released

By K. Tabaza
Special to The Star

MACINTOSH USERS in the Arab world will have something to look forward to this spring with the Arabization of some well-known Mac applications under way. Among the software being Arabized at the moment is a version of Mac Frame, a very popular piece of software used in the field of civil engineering. Also there's a new version of the DTP application All Page, which should be going through the last stages of development at the moment.

For the more serious users, the Arabization of the well-reputed relational data base The Fourth Dimension is said to be going through its last documentation stages.

And if all of that is not enough, a fully Arabized copy of the latest release of Hypercard 2.0 is ready and waiting to be bundled with the new Macintosh computers to be sent to the Arab world, including some Arabic Hypercard stacks by software developers which are expected to accompany the release but for



which no further information is available.

Unfortunately, the software will not use the features of the new Arabic System 7.01 which was released by Apple last month, but new Arabized products "will make use of this System and of capabilities of the new Apple machines," explained an Apple official.

After the release of the Arabic System 7.01, Apple International is finally expected to start shipping Quadra and Power-

books, in addition to its Classic II to the Arab world with the new system installed, and with Arabic/English keyboards. The delay was due to the inability of the machines to run any version of System software earlier than 7.01.

As for the Arabic developers for Macintosh, the Egyptian company Info-Arabs have announced the release of version 2.0 of its Arabic spell checker Abjad Hawwaz. The new version is promised to have a data base of Arabic vocabulary which is twice as big as the old version. The company also claims that it has boosted up the speed of this popular Desk Accessory.

Another Egyptian developer, Pie Practical Solutions, have also announced the release of a new version of Art Beat, their Arabic graphic design program for the Macintosh which is advertised by the company as a unique program in its field, not only in the Arab World, but also in Europe and the USA.

The program is one of the few Arabic applications capable of performing full colour separation on the Mac.

The Michelangelo scare: Was it worth it?

IT'S ALMOST a week since the whole world awaited that frightful day, March 6, when computers would go berserk. For weeks in advance, people discussed the implications of a wide-scale virus strike and how it could cripple information systems all over the world. Experts and analysts attempted to predict the worst, while many terrified users didn't even dare to switch their computers on and the world held its breath on "Black Friday".

So what happened? Well, according to initial reports, the casualties were minimal and the virus attack was a failure. The virus only succeeded in paralysing a few hundred computers, none of which were part of important information networks.

In the United States, computer and information experts worked around the clock during the 48 hours before the "strike" to educate the American people about the virus and how to get rid of it. Through the different forms of the media, methods of removal were explained to users and certain virus killers were recommended. In fact, sales of virus killers in the week ending March 6 were phenomenal.

"Michelangelo has, sort of, helped us find solutions for serious problems," commented one official. Apparently, the hysteria the virus created has made the public more aware of the dangers of viruses. However many, including myself, are of the opinion that the media slightly exaggerated the whole thing. Michelangelo was all over the papers everywhere. I suppose this helped serve the purposes of the computer vandals who created the virus by spreading the rumor, since they certainly received the attention they were going after. It has also helped encourage methods of security and continual virus checks. Many users re-programmed the internal clocks of their computers making them ignore the 6th of March, 1992. Others left their computers off all day.

The virus was recently detected in hundreds of machines produced by the American company Leading Edge, which were used in the Ministry of Agriculture, Congress and several west-coast newspapers. Big companies have been putting their systems through regular tests ever since the beginning of the year. Several smaller companies which detected the virus quietly removed it and kept the whole thing a secret, fearing that it might affect their reputations. According to statistics, one out of every 2500 computers in the country was infected with the virus at one time or another.

Back home, no serious reports have been made in Jordan about Michelangelo. According to the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), Jordanian users are well educated in the field of viruses and were able to handle the virus using normal scanners and killers, especially seeing as newer versions of Michelangelo, the more difficult ones to remove and the ones which were probably meant to strike last Friday, are not really widespread in the country. Most computer networks in the private and public sectors undergo regular checks and there are currently more disastrous viruses to be worrying about.

So the virus killers won the fight this time, but will the same thing happen next time? You can make your contribution to fighting computer viruses by starting with your own computer. Don't hesitate to give it a regular check and remember that there's nothing worse than having a sick computer around the house.



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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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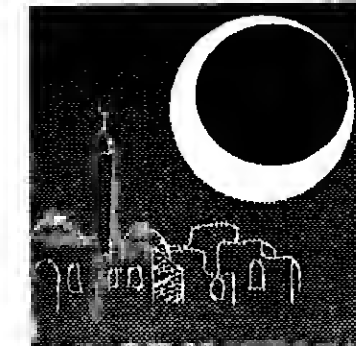
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JORDAN
WEEK

A non-conventional look at life in Jordan



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JORDANI WEEK

Forward to the past

Controversy still surrounds statements by PLO official Mr Yasser Abed Rabbo, who recently revealed that the Palestinian organization has asked Jordan to endorse a confederation between Jordan and Palestine. He said the PLO has asked for Jordan's active role in demanding the transfer of authority over the Occupied Territories from Israel. Abed Rabbo delivered a letter to His Majesty the King early last week.

The Palestinian move is thought to have come in order to refute any Israeli claims about the interpretation of UN resolu-

tion 242, regarding the occupied areas and Jordan's sovereignty over the lands occupied in the June 1967 war with the Arabs. But Palestinian personalities in the Occupied Territories have said that they still have no stand on the confederation proposal and that it is a matter for the future. Palestinian analysts said the PLO was hoping to strengthen the Palestinian stand in the peace negotiations, especially where legal matters are concerned.

Al Quds newspaper in occupied Jerusalem said PLO officials hope that territory can be transferred to Jordan and then handed back to Palestinians within the framework of two

confederated states. Jordanians say this is what they offered the PLO back in February 1985, and that the PLO rejected the offer. One problem today concerns Jordan's decision to disengage both legally and administratively from the West Bank in July 1988. Jordan's Parliament has not yet endorsed that decision.

The Lebanese connection

In surprise figures published in Beirut recently, Jordan emerged as the largest importer of goods from Lebanon in 1991. The bi-weekly Economic Perspectives (EP) reported this week that \$73.5 million worth of exports went from Lebanon to Jordan last year, 49% of them of Lebanese origin. Even allowing for re-exports of food and medicine from Jordan to Iraq, these figures are quite impressive, the newsletter said.

Imports from Lebanon included cereals, confectionery, bever-

ages, metal products, chemical products, edible fats, glass products, industrial machinery, cardboard, fodder, electrical goods, seeds and live plants, clothing and foodstuffs.

The case against the House

Three newspaper columnists have launched attacks against parliamentary deputies for different reasons, but all have to do with the issue of immunity and responsibility.

Al Rai newspaper columnist Dr Fahd Al Fanek said that some deputies think their immunity gives them the right to say whatever they like without fear of accountability. He added that while this may be true in the case of executive authority, it is definitely false when it comes to being accountable to the voters and public opinion.

Dr Fanek's main criticism was directed against deputies who spoke during last week's Lower House session on unemployment. Dr Fanek accused some deputies of making hasty and inaccurate conclusions and statements. One deputy, Dr Fanek said, called on the government to close down academic branches of colleges because they graduate unemployed youth. Another wanted to make a law ordering Jordanians with money abroad to repatriate their funds within a set time or face penalties. Dr Fanek said if such a law is made then more money will be smuggled out of the country.

Another writer in Al Rai, Mr Saleh Hyassat, wrote about the recurring phenomenon of absenteeism by Lower House deputies. He said the deputies who were elected on the platform of public service are now giving more attention to their private concerns and businesses at the expense of the public.

He called on deputies to assume the duties which they were elected to perform at a time when the public is concerned with internal and external problems.

Ad-Dustour's columnist Dr Nabil Al Sharif reminded deputies who are filling to amend article 73 of the Constitution which empowers the King to postpone the general elections, to show the same enthusiasm and amend article 87 of the Constitution which defines deputies' unlimited freedom of expression without accountability.

Dr Al Sharif said deputies may not show the same interest because the latter article affects deputies' rights to speak. He add-

ed that some deputies have interest in keeping that vague article as it is because it would give them the right to libel people and settle personal accounts. Dr Al Sharif quoted a public opinion poll conducted by the University of Yarmouk recently which showed that 66.3 per cent of those polled believe parliament should be dissolved and new elections held. He added that another 80.9 per cent said deputies have not fulfilled their election promises while 36.5 per cent said the performance of the House was weak.

Dr Al Sharif said a literal understanding of the article in question gives the wrong impression that deputies are above the law. He called on deputies to "put their house in order" first before rallying to amend other articles in order to maintain a minimum amount of credibility.

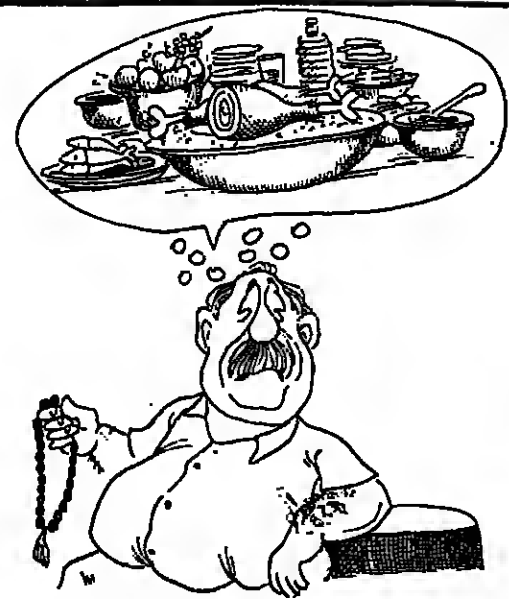
New Horizon by Tareq

Political commentator Mr Tareq Massarweh will publish a weekly political magazine out of Amman. Al Ufuq (Horizon) will appear on the newsstands on 15 April. Mr Massarweh published Al Ufuq Al Iktisadi for three months in 1982 before it was suspended by the government of Mr Mudrar Budran for breaching the terms of its license. Mr Massarweh, who writes a daily column in Al Rai, says his new publication will appeal to the Arab masses everywhere and promises to be as critical and outspoken as Mr Massarweh's daily columns have been for many years.

Jordan's markets get a newspaper

Another publication hit the newsstands last week, receiving praise from many readers. Mustafa Abu Libdeh's Al Aswaq (Markets) is a weekly newspaper catering for consumers and tackling economic issues, but his color publication has allowed space for social and cultural issues as well. Abu Libdeh is a veteran journalist who has worked for many years with Al Qabas newspaper in Kuwait. He also edited Sawt Al Shaab newspaper in Amman and wrote for Ad-Dustour and other Arab papers.

In his opening editorial Mr Abu Libdeh said Jordan expects an economic recovery in the coming years, and because of that his publication will play a role in offering information and service on the Jordanian economy.



Jalal Rifal

Braving the elements:

Petra exhibition displays high-tech solutions

By Hind-Lnra Mango
Special to The Star

AN EXHIBITION entitled "Modern Technologies of the Service of Archaeology — Safeguarding Petra" was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday at the French Cultural Center. The show, which will end on the 29th of this month, is in cooperation with UNESCO and the French Institute for the Archaeology of the Near East (IFAO).

Jacques Seigne, acting director of IFAO in Amman, said that the driving force behind the exhibition was the French National Electricity Society (EDF), who have been active in applying modern technology to the study of monuments all over the world. One such project was their elaboration of a computer-aided reconstruction of the Karnak Temple in Luxor.

Their assessment of damage incurred to the monuments at Petra, which is largely inflicted by flooding, has led them to suggest that high technology be used to protect the threatened sandstone of this valuable archaeological site, both above and below the surface.

"Petra needs to be protected from the flooding waters which have eroded much of the sites of Wadi Musa and Petra," said Seigne. "Another aspect to this problem is that the water stored under the earth comes up to the surface due to the effect of the heat of the sun," he added, "which means that salt accompanies the water and its crystallization further destroys the monuments up to two meters high."

It has been suggested that dams be built to collect the water and so reduce the possibility of further damage, however the dams cannot be built straight away. "This was tried once before, and with disastrous consequences," said Seigne. "A new dam," he added, "requires careful study and planning so that it will not collapse with the first flood that comes."

The EDF, who started their work and research last November, are being assisted by satellite photographs taken by the French company Spot Image (Satellite for the Observation of Earth), due to a lack of efficient maps of the flood-affected areas. Vital local information and statistics have been provided by the Jordan Water Authority.

Other Jordanian contributors include the Universities of Jordan and Yarmouk, the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Natural Resources Authority, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Department of Antiquities and the Petra National

Trust. The exhibition consists of 43 panels showing the contributions of each participating institution.

One representative from the Department of Antiquities at the show was Dr Khairich Amr, who participated with three joint panels representing work funded by the Petra National Trust, the Department of Antiquities and the University of Jordan. Her first panel was concerned with her excavations in 1991 at Zurnab, a Nabataean pottery workshop initially discovered in 1980. The other two are results of the discovery of that workshop.

"These panels are, in fact, asking for preservation of the site," said Dr Amr. "It is a unique site, since we do not have extensive

pottery workshops left in Jordan. To protect it is to preserve the industrial area of Petra as well as part of the history of technology."

Further studies in the area revealed an interesting Nabataean clay source near Wadi Musa, which have in turn led to studies of the methods of ancient pottery manufacture, and the use of the clay after showing in Amman, the exhibition will move to other Jordanian cities.

With Petra being on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the show will also be exhibited in France between July and October of this year, as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Convention of World Heritage. ■

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

■ US Secretary of State James Baker will visit Amman in April as part of a Middle East tour. The Star was told. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd will also visit Jordan in May to discuss progress in the Middle East peace process.

■ Central Bank sources have disclosed that losses to Jordan resulting from Iraq's halt in debts payments totalled \$97 in 1990 and \$118 in 1991. These figures include accumulating interests. Jordan's losses in the land, sea and air freight sectors during 1990 reached \$164.2 million while they reached \$343.8 million in 1991. The losses were due to the Gulf crisis.

■ The Lower House will convene in an extraordinary session in late May or early June to pass certain laws. The Star was told. The current ordinary session of Parliament ends on 31 March. The House was unable to pass two important draft laws, the Parties Law and the Press & Publication Law, in the present session.

■ Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Jordan will arrive in late June or early July, informed diplomatic sources told The Star. They said contacts between Amman and Riyadh on this issue have resumed recently. The Saudi Arabian envoy in Amman was recalled during the early stages of the Gulf crisis. Previous attempts to improve Jordanian-Saudi relations had failed.

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By Ewa Kuklinska

Islamic Jerusalem

Linear vistas of a neglected jewel

LONDON — When Mamluk Sultan al-Ashraf Sayf al-Din Qayibay visited Jerusalem in 1475, he was not much impressed with the appearance of the small old madrasa there, which was given his name. He ordered its demolition and a new edifice was built on its site. There was no better site in Jerusalem — just at the feet of the western entrance to the upper terrace of the Haram al Sharif, with the view towards the Dome of the Rock and the Mount of Olives behind it.

The new Ashrafiyya madrasa had been built by Qayibay's architects and craftsmen, all of whom were brought from Cairo after local workmen proved to be unsatisfactory. The building in its final shape was completed in 1482. A platform was built to make the site and the appearance of the building more appropriate to the sultan's expectations.

The architects were even allowed to extend the structure beyond the western and northern cornice of the existing rivaq, the arcaded ambulatory surrounding

the sahn or courtyard. That meant breaking a sacrosanct regulation and was possible only under the imperial authority.

The madrasa was located on the upper level, eight meters above the pavement of the Haram, with the grand processional pass and the majma (meeting hall) beneath. The effect of it all was to create a unique image and the result gave the mosque its reputation as the Third Jewel of the Third Shrine of Islam.

What Archie Walls saw when he first visited the place were only the remains of that jewel's beauty. The madrasa was devastated by an earthquake in 1545 and was never restored. Another earthquake, in 1927 demolished whatever remained of the original building.

However, "despite its ruined condition, the Ashrafiyya still retains much of its original beauty, especially in its decorated panels, and it was this which first attracted me and led me in 1971 to

begin recording them," writes Dr Walls, then an architect attached to the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

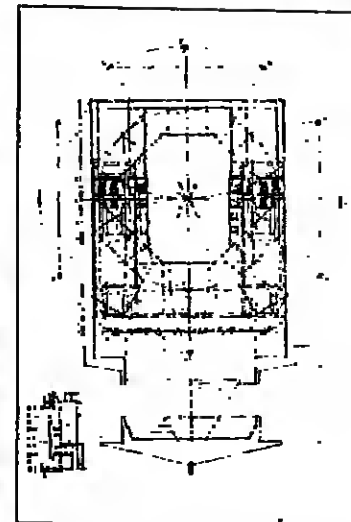
Walls then spent a year in Cairo studying the Mamluk monuments there. He knew that the Mamluks were past masters of geometry, so he used their methods to compare with his own measurements on site, knowing that the most logical starting point for the building plan must be the center of the sahn. "If a circle is drawn with center point S and a radius equal to 1/2 BUG (modular Basic Unit of Genemion), its circumference is tangential to the

west wall and to the edge of the platform. "He points out that there was no room for any unplanned coincidence in the original plan. Rather, he asserts, "these few discoveries give an insight into the ideas of the architect, and confirm his use of geometry in the design of the madrasa."

Dr Walls illustrates each step of his work with a series of drawings referring to that circle as a basic geometrical figure and a controlling element of the whole building's layout.

A hexagon is doubled to form the 12-pointed star which creates the primary geometry and is doubled again to produce a 24-pointed star which generates detailed horizontal and vertical patterns and a square. These drawings let the readers retrace the actual process of design. The author hints at a suspicion that the planners had begun it as a 'standardized structure drawing on the experience of earlier buildings such as Sultan Qayibay's Mosque and his house in Cairo.

Accompanied by detailed descriptions of the structure of this once splendid edifice and black-and-white photographs suitable to the linear character of the



study, this vision of Sultan Qayibay's Ashrafiyya becomes realistic enough to provide a blueprint for a contemporary developer.

Eleven drawings illustrating the final image of the reconstruction of its architectural form — some of them free hand — reveal the marvelous beauty of the madrasa's harmonious existence beside the minaret of Bab al Silsilah.

The study of the Ashrafiyya is useful not only for the students of historians of Islamic architecture. The author's deep research into the historical background, the site and its relation to the other buildings of that time make this book excellent reading for those interested in architectural conservation in general. A glossary of Arabic architectural terms makes the book easier for those not indoctrinated into the mysteries of the East.

Academic File

GEOMETRY AND ARCHITECTURE IN ISLAMIC JERUSALEM: A study of the Ashrafiyya. By Archie G Walls. Scorpion/World of Islam Festival Trust London 208pp, with 160 drawings and 16 photographs.

Ewa Kuklinska is an architect and a writer based in London.



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By Fuad Sulaimat

THIS WEEK'S Focus on Jordanian Literature will examine the career of the well-known Jordanian children's writer, Mrs. Rawdah El-Hudhud, and will review her latest story *The Secret of Aamer's Knife*.

Born in Jaffa, Palestine, Rawdah's parents moved to Amman after the events of 1948, where she studied her elementary and part of her secondary classes; then her parents moved to Ramallah. After obtaining her General Secondary Certificate in the scientific stream, Rawdah enrolled at the Pharmacology Faculty of Cairo University, where she studied three years; but due to the 1967 events she was obliged to return home and leave the university. Despite the difficulties which she faced, Rawdah obtained her degree in Law from the Arab University of Beirut, and even began her MA studies in the same specialization at the Lebanese University.

But in 1979, an important event changed the course of her life. The United Nations declared that year as "The International Year of the Child". Through her active participation in the year's activities, Rawdah discovered for the first time that her interest lay in this particular area. From that point onwards, Rawdah became associated with caring and working for children. She presently chairs The Children's Friends Society and is a member of The National Association for the Education of Children. She is also editor of the Jordanian children's magazine, *Wissam*, which is published by The Ministry of Culture, and editor of the weekly children's supplement of *Ad-Dustour*. In addition, she participates in conferences, festivals, symposia and book fairs for children held throughout the Arab world, and is a member of the International Books for Children and Youth (IBCY), whose secretariat is in Geneva.

Rawdah El-Hudhud is an active member of The Jordanian Writers Association, and a founding member of the Arab Development Council. She has produced about 20 books for children, notably *The Redemption Caravan*, which won the

Focus on Jordanian literature (8) Rawdah El-Hudhud: Nationalistic children's writer



Rawdah El-Hudhud

Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science prize; *A Lion Over Haila*, which won the Royal Jordanian Air Force prize and *Conflict in the Jungle*, a symbolic story.

The Secret of Aamer's Knife, a documentary story for children, was published by the Kinada Center, Amman in 1991. The 29-page story narrates the events of Aamer Abu Sarhan's life, spanning his childhood and his youth, right up to the heroic deed he performs and which ends with his arrest by the occupation forces. The story is narrated in a simplified manner and suits the taste and comprehension level of children. Its realistic depiction of events and factors that influence the protagonist, supported by documentary photographs and illustrations make it a masterpiece. The illustrations themselves make the story easy for children to grasp, even if their reading abilities have not been sufficiently developed.

The plot of the story is simple; due to the participation of Palestinian children in the intifada, Israeli occupation forces close down all the schools and educational institutions in the occupied territories. This act deprives Aamer and the rest of his schoolmates of the opportunity to con-

tinue their studies, and so he joins his father in his work as a builder.

Aamer learns from the Sheikh of the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem where he usually attends the Friday prayers, that an extremist Jewish organization intends to lay the foundation of a Jewish temple inside the precincts of the Aqsa. The Sheikh, Abu Senein, asks all Muslims to come and defend their holy mosque, but prevented by Israeli forces to go, Aamer listens to the news of the attack on the mosque on the radio.

The world was horrified to hear of the Aqsa Mosque massacre, committed by Israeli forces against innocent Palestinian worshippers, and Aamer listened to the atrocities committed there. Men, women and wounded people were pulled out of ambulances to be arrested, killed, or beaten ferociously; doctors who came to give first aid to the wounded were fired at, and Aamer was thrown at women inside the buildings, choking them to death. But what was so profoundly moving to Aamer was the news that Sheikh Abu Senein and twenty other worshippers had been killed. He began to meditate on ways to avenge these deaths.

He secretly made a large spear from a piece of iron, and seized the first opportunity to leave for Jerusalem to take revenge, heading for the Baqa'a Avenue, which he knew very well.

Prior to his departure to Jerusalem, he held his little daughter in his arms, kissed her, cast a last look at the house, and thought much about the vision he had seen during the night. He knew that his house would be

demolished by the Israeli forces, as had happened to the houses of many of his relatives and friends, but this did not change his mind. He thought that even if he were killed, he would have the honor of martyrdom and dwelling among the prophets and the chosen faithful. In his heroic operation, he succeeded in killing three of the enemy soldiers, including a high-ranking officer, before being arrested and taken to jail.

This is the plot, but the story contains much more than this simple summary. There is the psychological conflict over the nature of the act that he chose, and whether there are alternatives to such a revenge. There is also the response of the Palestinian people to the destruction of their homes by the occupation forces; and a historical review of the place and value of the Aqsa Mosque for Muslims everywhere.

In one passage in the story, a striking contrast is drawn between Aamer's deed and those that Israeli soldiers and officers usually commit against innocent people. The following excerpt describes events just after Aamer has killed two Israeli soldiers:

From early childhood, according to Israeli laws and rules, every Israeli in Palestine should

be armed, every Israeli should have his finger on the trigger. This officer had spent tens of years training, from his early childhood, in using arms, in shooting Arabs. For they cannot feel secure unless they carry their guns; they have occupied Palestine, and intend to expatriate, imprison, or kill its people — so even for a moment, how can they forget their arms?

So often a murderer becomes the victim of his own crime and perversion; so often the jailer becomes the jailed — and this officer, who is standing in front of Aamer is the murderer and the murdered, the jailer and the



jailed, the victim of the malevolent Zionist thought. As though some unseen power held the spear firmly with him, Aamer advanced unhesitatingly towards the officer, sensing that he is not alone in his belief, and that there is one great power beyond human reach that advocates his cause. The officer fired at Aamer, and the bullet rested in his

Continued on page 15

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By Vesna Mushurqa
Special to The Star

JORDANIAN CHILDREN love films and cartoons which deal with violence and aggression, said Zahia Innab, the head of children's programs at Jordan Television recently. "The television company receives telephone calls and letters from children daily, demanding more 'heroes', who, according to the children's TV program evaluation committee, are aggressive and destructive."

When talking to children who were in the JTV studio for the recording of the children's program *The Builders of the Future*, similar demands were repeated: "We would like to watch more films about war, strong fighters, powerful robots who destroy evils on other planets, brave people who always get their rights," agreed Lina, Mnndi, Mo'asseni and Rula, all aged between 10 and 12. They named their favorite stars: Voltron, Omnizor, Farris The Brave Hero and others.

Other children supported their opinion: "I like Farris The Brave Hero, Grandizer and Captain Majed," said Mohamad from Tia' El-Ali, "because they teach me how to be strong and patient and how to beat my enemies."

When asked about his 'enemies', he mentioned his class mates who scuffle in the schoolyard, and his older brother. "Sometimes my older brother is bored and then he starts teasing us until we start hitting each other," added Tala, Mohamad's older sister. "Then our father interferes and spans us all. Or he punishes the one who started the fight."

In the opinion of Haidham Zawawi, director of the *Builders of the Future* program and a Noor Al-Husseini Foundation employee, the voices of children are little heard at home, school or in the community.

"When the children come to the studio, I usually talk to them before recording, so as to encourage them to express their opinions freely in front of the camera. Many of them are surprised that their words are important enough to be recorded, and some of them have told me openly about the lack of consideration and time they get from their parents, teachers and adults in general."

Despite the fact that children enjoy violence, aggression and destruction, the children's TV program department has approved certain standards for children's shows. "We always try to avoid violence when selecting children films and cartoons, giving

priority to items that create incentives for adventure, helping society, saving nature and maintaining good health. We also want to promote positive social manners and information about local culture, Arab countries and the world around us," said Zahia Innab.

Jordanian Television provides one hour and a half of children's programs daily, comprising animation films, local children's shows and foreign children's productions that fall within the domain of the committee's criteria. Local programs for children include: *Children's Television*, *Children's House*, *Builders of the Future* and the old show for juniors *Al Munahel*. All these productions are educational.

According to Zahia, Jordan TV is planning to raise the percentage of local productions, which until now have not exceeded one series annually.

"We lack imaginative writers and specialists in children productions," she said. "Besides needing better technical equipment and a separate studio for the children's department."

She also stressed that although TV plays an important role in a child's life, it cannot neutralize other effects on a child's development such as family, school and the neighborhood. Her one



Hero or villain?

remark about the bad influence of television on a child is "non-critical TV viewing, where consumers follow all items from the beginning of transmission to the end. As a result, children watch everything on television, including late shows for adults, which are not suitable for their age and leave lots of negative effects."

Zahia argued that JTV's efforts to promote certain values among children should be extended to video shops and other places that distribute printed materials. "It is very easy for any child to get video cassettes with violent contents and cartoon heroes who do more harm than good," she said. "The Ministry of Information's department for printed material should impose strict regulations on video shops regarding the circulation of films for children. And parents should be more responsible and concerned about their child's upbringing."

Psychologists and social workers in elementary schools have remarked that children often undergo stress at home, due to competition between brothers and sisters, or abusive parents. Such children need more understanding and lots of positive modelling, so as to show them how to deal with their friends and siblings. Confused, scared and insecure children turn to the 'magic' TV box, looking for strength, self-confidence and an emotional outlet. However, summary is not to be found in the television, for modern psychology argues: "Give a child more freedom, and he will replace this aggression with love."

Jordan string ensemble presents a striking premiere performance

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

EVEN THOUGH the long winter spell brought icy roads, froze even the anti-freeze in cars and disrupted many areas of activity in Amman, it made little difference to the 22 members of the Jordan String Ensemble. Their ardent enthusiasm to perform according to schedule meant that the weather was no object, and they punctually rehearsed at the National Music Conservatory (NMC), in spite of all the snow.

Their first performance this week was of double significance — it was both the official inauguration of the ensemble and the premiere of 'Wilada', a symphony by Jordanian composer and musicologist Dr Abdel Hamid Hamman.

The string ensemble is special in that it consists of musicians with very different musical backgrounds — from highly professional and academic performers down to music students and amateurs. It was simply the desire

to improve, perfect and perform that brought them all together.

As Leith Abdel Ghani, the ensemble conductor explained, the musicians wanted to produce some solid results worthy of presenting to the public.

Aram Zarasian, for example, is a professional violinist who enjoys global recognition. A winner of several international competitions, he currently teaches violin and is nostalgic about 'the good old days' when, as a Russian conservatory student, he used to perform almost every day. Abdel Ghani, also a Russian conservatory graduate, conductor and lead oboist of the Iraqi Symphony Orchestra, explained the main aim of the ensemble: "It will boost the morale of the advanced musicians who, unfortunately, do not get enough chances to perform, and will be a good opportunity for the less experienced musicians to practice with and be supervised by professional artists, raising their performance level."

During rehearsals, for example, the professional musicians could not help but show their teaching instinct, by explaining and showing the students the 'know-how' of the art of performing.

The string ensemble's members are predominantly Jordanian, with only a few foreign musicians or students participating. Megumi Tanimura teaches violin at the NMC, and is here on a Japanese government cultural exchange program. Trained as a music performer at the Kyoto Conservatory, she misses performing on stage. For her, the concert was a marvelous opportunity to play as a group and to 'read the boards' again.

Mohammad Fadel, an NMC violin teacher, has been with the Conservatory since it opened. He too enjoyed the group rehearsal and the pleasure of performing. His student Mohammad Hazza shared his views on the problems that Jordanian musicians face these days. Highly qualified teachers are badly needed, because once a student has learned the basics he or she needs to advance fast. "This is

the area we lack in," he said. "We need teachers who can teach to an advanced level."

All of the students agreed with him; some going on to say that they would have liked to have become professional musicians, but financial constraints would not allow them to do so. To have an music institution where musicians can work full time and have the opportunity to perform is a mutual dream for them all.

To the delight of the ensemble, their performance at the Royal Cultural Centre was a roaring success. The highlight of the program was the 'Wilada' symphony. Conductor Abdel Ghani described the three movements chosen for the concert as being orientally hued, and with melodies based on polyphony. It is a composition in which several instruments play independently and with equal importance, yet are united in one theme. One could easily pick out the beginnings of a 'dialogue' (Farkat El-Watari), in a heart-rending melody, when the style of polyphony was most prominent.



Conductor Abdel Ghani

"The effect is striking, and I must admit it is the work of a master," said Abdel Ghani. It must be said that with his vast conducting and performing skills, amicable temperament and professionalism, he has succeeded in unifying all of his musicians into a solid and promising ensemble. ■

By Sajid Rizvi

Central Asia

In Turkey, doubt and debate about future role

Turkey's role in Central Asia has become a focus of controversy in the country's political circles, with critics accusing the government of playing up to America.



Turning to God, but accepting Turkey's help

LONDON — Turkey's role in the emerging conglomeration of Turkic and Persian states in Central Asia has become a matter of angst and pride amongst the native Turks of the motherland. The constant stream of delegations from the north has fuelled nationalistic feelings among many Turks and invoked, for some at least, visions of a Greater Turkey. It has also prized open throbbing new anxieties about how Turkey's chief benefactor, the United States, may wish to use this new found pre-eminence of a loyal ally to secure its own position among a whole new group of states.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has come under fire for succumbing to US pressure to deliver more than what Turkish interests will justify. Derya Sazak, a commentator in the daily *Milliyet*, asked whether Washington wanted Ankara to play a subcontractor's role in Central Asia. Citing Demirel's recent US visit, Sazak said that, instead of feeling pleased at getting closer to his American counterparts, Demirel should consider carefully whether Turkey's own national interests coincided with the strategic goals of the United States.

Demirel's answer, delivered in the Grand National Assembly, was that there could be no prestige without cash. It was true, he said, that Turkic republics had "great confidence" in Turkey but, he pointed out, "we do not have the means or the economic strength to meet their needs. Therefore, we have called on other states for aid." Demirel's defense was echoed in remarks by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who said, "Turkey has special relations with and a mission towards the Central Asian republics."

In the meantime, however, the Turkish opposition, ironically made up of largely the same people who carried favor with Washington when in power themselves, has built up its attacks on Demirel. Popular opinion in the country remains sensitive to any suggestion that Turkey is a mere flag-bearer for the United States.

A letter from President George Bush to President Turgut Ozal, believed to propose an alternative Central Asian defence system which could persuade the republics to abandon their nuclear stockpiles, was used by critics to turn up the heat on the prime minister. Amid calls for a disclosure of the full contents of the exchange between the two presidents, critics wanted to know whether Ankara had already sacrificed its own interests over those of Washington.

Reports, such as one in the London Arabic daily *Al Hayat* that Russia and the United States were in agreement over bolstering the Turkish position in the area as a counterweight to Iran's influence, have come as little comfort to the critics. There may be some truth, however, in Turkey's coolness towards Iran since at the last minute in late February Demirel postponed his official visit to the country.

Popular debate over the closeness — or indeed coolness — of US-Turkish ties is not a new factor in Turkish politics. But it has come at a time when Turkey is being seen at least by some of the Asian republics as a model. Education Minister Kokasli

Toplan is scheduled to visit five Turkic republics to sign protocols that will give Turkey a crucial say in the future shape of education in Central Asia. The Crimean Tatars are already on the way to adopting the Latin Turkish alphabet in order to be able to "communicate with Turkey," as indicated by Mustafa Cengiz, speaker of the newly independent state's parliament.

Turkey has found not only its cultural but also political presence enhanced in the region almost overnight. Ahmed Gunesh, leader of the underground Turkoman Party of Iraq, which is seeking an independent Turkish homeland on Iraqi territory, said recently that Turkey in fact was "the sole hope of Turks in Iraq."

Tricking locusts into staying single

NAIROBI — A team of scientists in Kenya is trying to fight the global threat from locusts by identifying and then tampering with the causes of various stages of locust behavior.

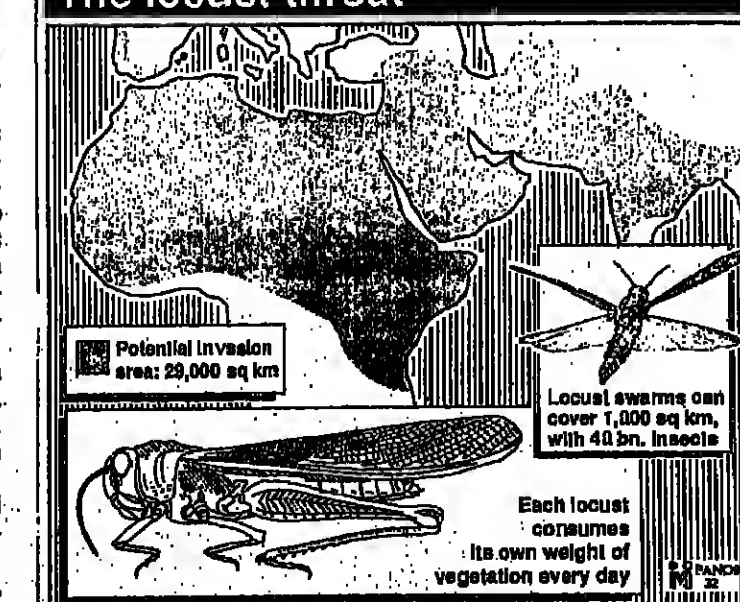
At the heart of the research is one of the major mysteries of locust life: What causes the essentially harmless solitary locust to combine with millions of others in voracious swarms that can cover more than 1,000 square kilometers, flying over 300 kilometers a day?

Each locust consumes its own weight of vegetation every day. The last major infestation, in 1988, cost countries in northern Africa \$1 billion in agricultural losses, according to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates.

Says Prof. Thomas Odhiambo, director of the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE): "The aim is to keep the locusts firmly on the ground." International attempts to find new ways of controlling locusts stem from concerns about the environmental and human damage caused by the highly toxic pesticides, such as Dieldrin and Malathion, currently in use.

Chemicals, says Prof. El Sayed El Bashir, who heads the Institute's locust research program, are becoming "expensive and hopeless." ICIPE scientists are working

The locust threat



on the hypothesis that locust behavior is controlled by natural chemicals in their bodies, which could be isolated, synthesized and used against them.

So a major effort is underway to de-code the insect's chemical language, particularly the signals that trigger the formation of swarms, synchronized and accelerated sexual maturity, and communal egg-laying.

Since solitary locusts are more selective than swarms in the choice of plants they eat, particular plants may contain locust-attracting chemicals.

Similarly, locusts manage to find their mates, even though they may be up to 10 meters apart, suggesting the existence of pheromones (substances secreted by an animal for detection and response by another of the same species). A swarm multiplies 30-fold every time breeding occurs, which in ideal conditions can be three or four times a year.

Bashir says colors, perhaps the reflection of the desert sand, are a factor in determining whether a locust stays solitary or becomes gregarious.

geostrategic facts" have increased the importance of the South Wing of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). "Because Turkey has cultural, historical and language ties with them," said Werner, "Turkey will be their guide in democracy and reform. Turkey is also important for the preservation of stability in the region."

Placed against Western fears of a resurgent Islam as a potential new threat, the growing perception of Turkey, a Muslim country, as a vanguard of Western interests seems some kind of an oddity. But as Turks have been at pains to stress repeatedly, Turkey presents 'the other face' of Islam, one at variance with current popular perceptions in the West. "Democracy and Islam are not incompatible," Demirel said recently. "Democracy can be achieved in Islamic countries, and Turkey is a living example."

In a hint of the developing polarization between Turkey and some other Islamic countries, Demirel also said that "If Iran and Algeria can be shown as examples of fundamentalism, Turkey can be cited as the example of a country which is 99.9 per cent Muslim and yet it enjoys a democratic rule."

Be that as it may, controversy over Turkey's role in the emerging power blocs of Central Asia and the Middle East is far from quiescent. No amount of reasoning by protagonists such as the prime minister himself is expected to silence critics who seem convinced that the agenda in Central Asia is many layered and much of it remains hidden. ■

Academic File

Sajid Rizvi is managing editor of Academic File.

"Some aspects of this research have been studied before," he says, "but the tools were rudimentary and funding was limited."

Finance for ICIPE's research is provided by a range of bilateral and international organizations, and has paid for a locust-rearing facility at its Dugwayville ("Insect town"), headquarters a few kilometers from Nairobi.

In addition they are investigating the possibility of biological control of the pests, which periodically affect more than 50 countries covering one fifth of the Earth's land surface.

Bashir explains that current insecticide-based approaches aim to kill entire swarms, but the strategy under consideration would involve the release of pathogens (agents of disease), which would be transmitted from one generation to the next. In every species, there are some members who survive disease, and the idea is that the survivors would pass the pathogens to their offspring.

The problem is that few pathogens survive the harsh conditions in areas of locust infestation. But for the main pathogen under scrutiny at ICIPE, a 50 per cent mortality rate has been observed 18-20 days after infection, eventually reaching 80-85 per cent.

Bashir stresses that many other scientists are working on locust control programmes. "It is a regional pest which knows no boundaries." ■

PANOS

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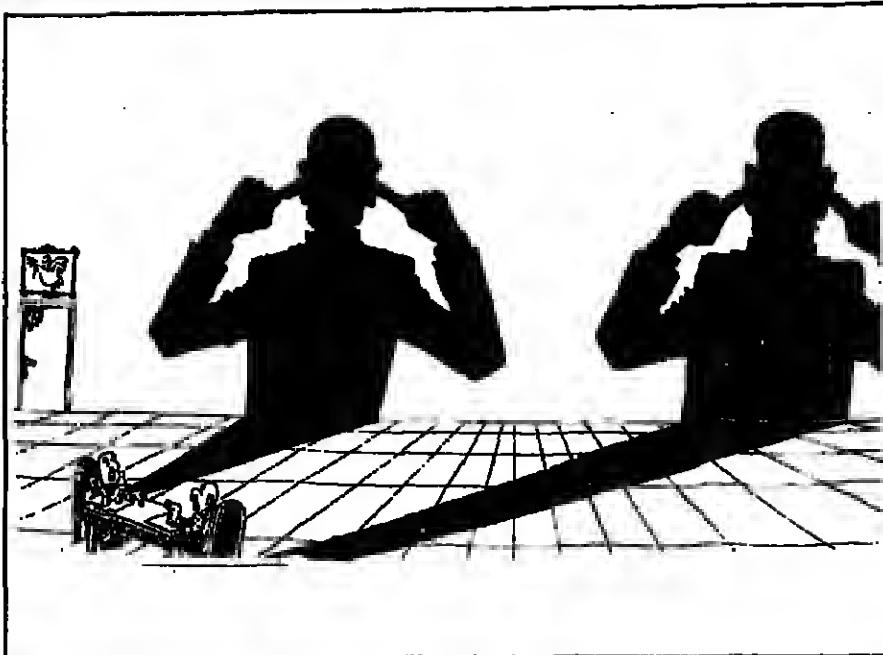
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Our Say....

Staying on hold

THE MIDDLE East peace process is in recess, or so it seems. With the US presidential race officially in progress and the Israeli public absorbed in local politics preparing for the June general elections, the real issues are becoming increasingly blurred and attention is again being shifted towards issues that are better received by a bewildered electorate.

For President Bush, who is walking a tight rope where internal US politics is concerned, seems to find dealing with Iraq and Libya to be far more "exciting" than the slow, intricate and sometimes boring process of peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis. This is why we have seen a return to power politics and tough talking when dealing with war-devastated Iraq, which Western leaders still claim to be dangerous to global and regional security and may require another Desert-Storm style intervention to sedate it.

The same story is repeated with an increasingly frightened Libya, whose efforts to reach a face-saving deal on the issue of its two suspected citizens have reached a dead end. Now Libya, which has a notorious reputation in the United States and the rest of the Western world, is preparing for the worst — which may come in the form of selective sanctions or even a "surgical" air strike against targets deemed threatening to regional stability.

Even Syria and Iran along with North Korea have not escaped the retribution of US officials and the Western media. How a North Korean vessel escaped what would have been mid-day piracy in the high seas by US battle ships remains a mystery.

It is obvious that President Bush, who is now joined by an electioneering British Prime Minister John Major, would like to appear tough and strong before the voters. Iraq, Syria, Iran and even North Korea are public enemies because of their tarnished images. Most are regarded as pariahs, of different levels of course, by the "international community", i.e. the US, Britain, France and even Russia. And it would not hurt a bit to bully them around if that may secure a few votes here and there.

For Israeli leaders, the punch bags are Syria, the PLO, Muslim fundamentalists and Iran — for understandable reasons. So while Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir preaches peace and brotherhood to the world, he gives full throttle to schemes to colonize the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan, not to mention terrorizing South Lebanon. In front of the Israeli public he portrays himself as a man who is committed to the peace process, while in reality he does everything possible to prevent it from moving an inch forward.

This is made even clearer by the Israeli-US row over the loan guarantees. Shamir has taken the issue to the Israeli public, Eretz Israel exclusive to Jews, or succumbing to the Arabs and especially to the Palestinians.

What do we understand from all of this? The peace process is on hold for the time being and will continue to be so until the outcome of the Israeli elections. If Shamir wins, the process will remain on hold until the outcome of the US elections. And if President Bush loses, God forbid, then it will remain on hold indefinitely.

We say this as yet another attempt is being made to revive the Arab League and, through it, joint Arab work has also been put on hold until one thing or the other materializes. Meanwhile, we all wait for something to happen in Washington, Tel Aviv, London or Moscow before we can judge the next move.

America and the Middle East No peace without US pressure

By Zbigniew Brzezinski

A YEAR after the Gulf War, is there evidence of anything enduring that came out of that vast exercise of American power? I'm not sure. I was against the initiation of hostilities last year because I felt that to achieve America's strategic objectives would entail a prohibitive physical and financial cost. I believe events bore me out.

America did destroy the Iraqi army at a relatively small cost to itself, but at an enormous human cost to the Iraqis. It wrecked the Iraqi economy and society,

thereby making Iran the strongest power in the Persian Gulf. It has not solved the Kurdish problem. It has not eliminated Saddam. What did the US accomplish a year in retrospect? It liberated Kuwait for its Emir.

Shortly after Secretary of State Baker initiated the post-war peace process, PLO leader Yasser Arafat warned that the Israelis would stall until the American election season, thereby sapping the will of the administration to press Israel. That seems now to have come to pass. In fact, we don't need Arafat to anticipate Israeli tactics; obviously they are stalling.

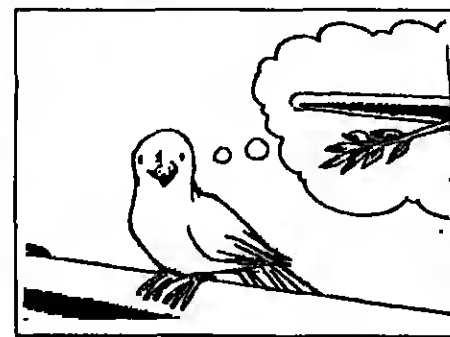
Aid to Israel alone since 1970 comes to about \$77 billion, \$15,000 to \$20,000 per head for each man, woman and child in Israel. That is much more than is being done for America's own poor. The American people are getting ticked off at all that. Therefore, the effort to attain peace in the Middle East through assertive American leadership would have popular support.

Meanwhile, the security problem of Europe is becoming one that Europe itself can more increasingly handle, especially given the simultaneous collapse of the Soviet Union and the impressive, historically-sustained progress that the European Community is making toward a genuine European Union.

In contrast, in the Far East, we have the paradoxical situation of extraordinarily impressive economic progress and a persistent security vacuum. Given the fact that we are likely to see the emergence in the next several years of several major power contenders in the Far East themselves reach agreement because their aspirations are irreconcilable. It will, therefore, take the US to push through an agreement. And it is true that now that the US has entered the electoral season, it makes it very difficult to move forward.

If the US doesn't persist, then the Arab-Israeli problem will persist. The Israelis will move their way in the short run in a brutal fashion. In the long run, Israel will be isolated in the area. And with the proliferation of weapons, it will eventually be vulnerable to a brutal Arab setting of accounts.

Whether the US administration has the political will to push the peace process forward is of central interest. I think the president and the secretary of state personally do. That counts for a lot. Moreover, the American people must realize that the absence of peace in the Middle East is becoming prohibitively costly. America gives Egypt and Israel \$8 billion to \$9 billion in aid each year as the price for the absence of (China, India, Japan and, to some extent, a reunified Korea, as well as whatever remains of Russian military power) that region is a potential source of concern for global stability.



In some respects the post-Cold War situation in the Far East is reminiscent of Europe prior to World War I. In light of that, continued American involvement in the Far East remains a necessary stabilizing factor.

The Far East, the post-Communist states and the Middle East are the areas where America should concentrate "its selective global commitment." We cannot be responsible isolationist, but being internationalist doesn't mean America does not make distinctions and does not make priorities.

There are certain areas of the world where others can do a lot on their own, for example the West Europeans — and there are certain parts of the world where US involvement, on its own, is absolutely necessary, such as the Middle East. ■

The writer, national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, is an author, most recently of *The Grand Follies: The Birth and Death of Communism in the 20th Century*. The article was adapted from an interview with *New Perspectives Quarterly*.

Blast wrecks Israeli embassy in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES — A terrible explosion largely destroyed the Israeli embassy in the Argentine capital Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and injuring 95 others. Police were still pulling victims from under the rubble Wednesday overcome by fears of finding additional casualties.

President Carlos Menem, who requested the cooperation of both Mossad and the CIA, said the bomb attack may have been the work of "a terrorist attempt from outside."

Two sources have claimed responsibility for the attack, a Neo-Nazi faction and a group calling itself "For a Free Palestine."

The blast destroyed three floors of the Israeli embassy and caused serious damage to nearby buildings, including two schools, on old people's home and the French, Brazilian, Romanian and Colombian embassies.

Police investigations have not yet established the type of explosive used in the blast, nor whether the bomb had been planted in the embassy or in a car parked outside. ■

King Hassan II 'Collective fundamentalism is a fool's paradise'

The following is the text of an interview with King Hassan II of Morocco conducted in Rabat recently by *Figaro Magazine* correspondent.

Q: What is your assessment of western nations, of the industrialized world?

A: Morocco is, with Turkey, the country closest to the industrialized world represented by Western Europe. If one analyzes the elements responsible for the progress of west-European nations, it is difficult not to feel envious, even lustful. If one contemplates that universe superficially with the eyes of a profane, it's not envy but adoration one feels, capable of causing one's own demise. Indeed, when one enters this West, one cannot help asking oneself the question: how long more will this world last? The original core, the family, is breaking up, leading individuals to become unkempt, to abandon all criteria of reference, to sweep aside all moral and ethical constraints. This is true of their appearance, their speech, their actions, and way of thinking.

What first appears to be a game destined to prove one's emancipation soon develops into a second nature where only very few sacred believers remain.

I believe that in any society, whatever its level of fulfillment and progress, there must be a minimum of rules which do not have to be taboo. Such as the family. It can be discussed but not denied.

So, this western world is very attractive, generating competition and the emulation of success which allows for sustained progress. But seen from our level of social and religious cosmogony, one must not follow the pack blindly.

Q: Several decades ago, you made what was then considered an unpopular decision. You opted for the market economy when most developing nations



King Hassan II in a private moment with his grandchildren

preferred to go the socialist way.

A: I proceeded by elimination. I looked around and noticed that there were many smudges on copy books, that homework was badly done, badly written, badly assimilated. Collectivist ideology was new, appealing. But one could feel that something there didn't stick with the Arab psyche. In Morocco we too made a choice of society. Economic liberalism and individual freedoms go together.

Q: Are you preoccupied by the political situation in Algeria? How do you explain its current political impasse?

A: Everyone knows the choices made by Algeria after independence. A single party, a controlled economy, excessive collectivization. As many choices which are responsible for what Algeria has to face. In politics and especially in economics, errors do not appear immediately. Like freckles, they mustn't be exposed to the sun. It comes out years after, and it's serious.

Q: Is Islamic fundamentalism in Algeria the result of these errors?

A: The political situation is but the fruit of the economic situation like siamese twins, they go together and must not be ever separated. It's an arduous exercise to keep them aligned.

Q: And fundamentalism?

A: When it's individualist, it must be respected. A fundamentalist in the Christian, Jewish or Muslim religion is someone who follows precepts not only with punctuality but with a certain severity. By contrast, collective fundamentalism is a fool's paradise since it reflects little else than an obscurantist will to dominate.

Let's consider the case of Algeria's FIS (Islamic Salvation Front). Unlike the other parties, throughout the campaign it didn't propose the slightest political, economic or social program. Its only slogan was "Vote God!" It's easy to vote God.

That's why I would have been inclined to go ahead with the second round of the election. I would have liked to see FIS leaders — and there are many university lecturers among their ranks — make the link between real Islam and oil refineries, between the real Islam and economic and industrial progress. I would have liked to see how they would reconcile their moral and religious education with modern life.

the market economy, competitiveness. We could have waited for the second round (of Algeria's stalled parliamentary elections). Personally I feel frustrated. Either they proposed a new, extraordinary methodology in which case they would have set a precedent, or they derailed from the constitution in which case the army would have saved Algeria.

Q: Victory by the FIS would not create a situation similar to that of the Iranian revolution, operating in total economic unreality?

A: No, for Iran isn't an Arab country. Only the enlightened class, that of the clergy, reads and speaks Arabic. According to one of the Prophet's precepts there cannot be a clergy in Islam since nothing must separate the worshiper from God. In Iran, the clergy which had studied Islam in the text became the shepherds, turning the population of worshippers into sheep.

Q: The Europeans are worried.

A: Let's not forget that Europe also experienced an extended period of fundamentalism. The Crusades, the Nantes edict, the conquest of eastern Europe by the Turks all contribute to fear of the word fundamentalism. Especially when this fundamentalism comes from a language and a civilization which are not its own. A combination of memory and ignorance explain the current anxiety.

Q: After a promising start, Arab-Israeli negotiations are at a standstill. Are you disappointed?

A: No. A long conflict just doesn't go away like that. In fifty years of conflict both sides have plenty of real grievances and thousands of fake ones. Jews and Arabs will have to learn togetherness all over again. The process will be long, sometimes dramatic, but I'm prepared to bet its irreversibility. I also consider that any negotiation without ups and downs isn't a real negotiation.

Q: Don't you feel that the world is entering a period of upheavals, and fear that Morocco might be caught in it?

A: It's a contradiction to wish to flow with the current yet avoid the consequences.

Q: So you are aware of it.

A: Oh yes I am! We must build up our resistance. For this reason it is important to forge a Moroccan Man, a Moroccan Woman, particularly on the cultural level. It is only if sure of their identity that Moroccans will be able to hold their own, whatever the odds. We wish to continue being Arabs, but Arabs for the whole world. One has to fight to remain a good Muslim, useful to society. Not a Muslim who causes fear. We wish to take part in the conquest of the future, but does this mean the loosening up of our society, the rejection of our traditions? The day when, in Morocco, we will lay the stone of the first center for elderly people, it will be time to prepare the grave of this country. Because on that day our country will have abandoned its family. When a country does that, it sentences itself definitively.

Regional ROUND-UP

WASHINGTON: The Washington Post has said that an investigation by the State Department concluded that Israel sold advanced US arms technology to other countries. The newspaper, quoting a State Department official, added that the CIA obtained irrefutable evidence that Israel re-exported US technology without getting Washington's permission. The countries involved in the sale are said to be China, Thailand and South Africa. Israel denied the charges and said it was an attempt to hurt Israel's image in an election year. Meanwhile, an American team of investigators was expected to arrive in Israel to check into the allegations. Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens flew to Washington on Sunday to discuss the issue with his American counterpart, Dick Cheney. Later Arens emerged to say that Israel's attempts to secure \$10 billion in loan guarantees may have failed. He said Israel will turn to the world Jewish community for the money and will not accumb to Washington's conditions on freezing settlements in the Occupied Territories.

WASHINGTON: His Majesty King Hussein has voiced hope that no oilfield military confrontation with Iraq would take place and things will not develop into that direction. The King made the remark in an interview with the American Cable News Network (CNN) during his stay in the United States. On Monday, the King held talks in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand on the latest development in the Middle East peace process. He then flew to Bonn to meet with German officials. In the United States, the King and President George Bush ended a political rift that had erupted between the two countries over the Gulf War.

CAIRO: Egyptian security forces arrested Gen. Sa'adun Al-Shazili, commander of Egyptian forces during the October 1973 war. He was arrested at Cairo airport upon his return from Algeria after 14 years of living in exile. Al-Shazili said he advocates an Islamic state in Egypt.

ERZINCAN, Turkey: A powerful earthquake hit this region in eastern Turkey. Red Cross officials fear that the death toll could reach 4,000 as rescue operations continue in the quake-stricken area. The whole town center was levelled while thousands of people were rendered homeless.

Nicosia: Palestinian ambassador to Saudi Arabia has said he is optimistic the kingdom would soon resume direct financial support to the PLO. The Saudi aid to the PLO was cut off during the Gulf crisis. The ambassador's statements come after King Fahd sent a reply message to PLO leader Yasser Arafat re-affirming Saudi Arabia's commitment to backing the Palestinian people.

AMMAN: Jordan has accepted a Lebanese invitation to attend talks on Middle East peace negotiations scheduled to be held in Beirut later this month. The meeting at the level of foreign ministers will be devoted to evaluating the results of the four rounds of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations held in Washington following the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last October.

CAIRO: Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad made a two-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the Middle East peace process and bilateral issues. Assad's visit comes after he made a speech criticizing America and Israel and warning against a second use of force against Iraq.

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Ramadan in Indonesia A time for piety, charity and family sharing

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

DURING THE holy month of Ramadan, mosques in Indonesia become full of worshippers both at night and in the morning. Religious lectures are followed for half an hour on each occasion.

As far public life, schools are open for twenty days, meaning that they do not open for the first and last weeks of Ramadan. They also start one hour later in the morning, as is the case with all governmental institutions in Indonesia. "Pupils are obliged by their teachers to attend the mosque and to write reports about the lecture," said Marzani Adamy, wife of the Indonesian ambassador here.

Breaking the fast in the villages is signalled by drums, but in towns people wait attentively for their television sets for the *Athan*. This moment is shared with the family and sometimes with friends. A cup of tea, a glass of fresh young coconut juice, one or two dates and snacks are the basics for the *Iftar* Maghreb prayers follow, and then comes the proper dinner.

Mixed rice is always a must as well as soup, *Ba'so* (beef balls and vegetables) and *Soto* (chicken, vermicelli, herbs, celery, and spring onions). Chicken is a common dish in Indonesia and it is cooked in many different ways. Lungkuase, a meal of chicken cooked in coconut milk, is a frequent dish in Ramadan.

One notices that Indonesian



Mrs Marzani Adamy

cuisine is very similar to that of the Chinese, for rice, with its various trimmings, has to be present, and Lumpia, spring rolls, are also eaten as part of the *Iftar* snacks (see recipe below).

Eid Al-Fitr is considered by the Indonesians to be the most joyful of feasts. It is welcomed noisily, with highways crowded with cars heading out of town. Mrs Adamy said, however, that *Eid Al-Adha* is not received as jubilantly.

The government grants a two day holiday to its civil servants, who spend their time visiting relatives and friends. The *Eid* prayer is now carried out in Indonesia in parks and fields, and even on the roads and in hotel gardens.

The paying of the Zakat tax, a duty prescribed as one of the five pillars of Islam, is generally presented to poor neighbors. In

West Jawa, one of the main Indonesian islands, Zakat is organized and distributed amongst the poor.

The following recipe is for Lumpia, or spring rolls, that are eaten as an *Iftar* snack. You will need to gather the following ingredients:

To make the dough:

1 kg flour
10 eggs
1 tablespoon milk powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon melted butter
or oil water

For the filling:

1 medium sized chicken, boiled and skinned
1 kg grated carrots
1 tin bamboo shoots
vermicelli (according to taste)
2 eggs
2 onions
1/2 garlic
pepper
salt
oil

Method:

Fry the items for the filling in the oil. For the dough, simply mix the ingredients together and add water until you get a smooth consistency. Roll out the dough and then cut into rectangles, filling them with the fried mixture and then folding them over. ■

RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

The glorious occasions of Ramadan

By Ahmad Al-Anan

MUSLIMS IN Ramadan attach great significance to the anniversary of the battle of *Badr*, perhaps one of the smallest battles in history but one of the most decisive ever known. Muslims also rejoice with pride at the recurrence of the 20th of Ramadan anniversary of the conquest of Mecca, which was realized by deterrent tactics, involving tolerance and peace and which should set an ideal example for humanity at large.

Badr was really only a tiny battle in which there participated some 300 Muslims under the Prophet's leadership. They were very poorly armed and had only 70 camels and 3 horses against more than 900 *Quraishites* (pagan Meccans), who were very well armed and equipped with some 70 horses and 800 camels.

The Muslims, who had been severely stricken by the confiscation of all their homes and mobile and immobile properties, failed to bring the Meccans to reason, and the *Quraish* adamantly maintained a state of war against them.

The trade caravans of *Quraish* followed a road to Damascus which passed through Medina and other adjacent trade routes parallel to the sea. Hearing that *Quraishite* leader Abu Sufyan was at the head of the big caravan of Mecca with only seventeen guards helping him, the Muslims hurried to intercept their enemies. To their amazement, they discovered that Abu Sufyan had learnt about their plans, and, while sending an expeditious message to Mecca to come and save their caravan, had taken a curving road to Mecca and had managed to reach there before the departure of its army to fight their Muslim enemy. The moderates of Mecca were overpowered by a hardhearted extremist minority led by Amr Ibn Hisham (Abu Jahl), the arch-enemy of Islam.

Instead of laying hands on a very rich commercial caravan, the poorly-armed and badly-equipped Muslim force found itself facing a power three times its size, with armor and military supplies. The smaller army of the faithful however fought like one man and with unprecedented bravery. They were well-disciplined and anxious to revenge the haughty aggressors of Mecca, who had for thirteen full years inflicted atrocities on them.

The battle raged for a few hours, with the Muslim fighters striving to gain either victory or martyrdom. Their victory was decisive; seventy Meccans were killed. A considerable number of captives were obliged to pay ransoms for their freedom, bringing an end to the Muslims' economic problems. The importance of the battle of *Badr* is that it marked the rise of Islam's prestige in Arabia. It took only six years before the whole of the Arabian Peninsula came under the banner of Islam.

The conquest of Mecca ran in a very different manner. The Prophet decided to build a big force to serve as a deterrent for Mecca against running the risk of fighting in the Holy *Ka'aba*, the abode of peace. The Prophet also highly estimated the financial power of Mecca, which, by conversion to Islam would extend the new faith over the whole Peninsula.

The first peaceful Muslim attempt against Mecca took place three years before the conquest of the holy town. It was an established tradition that all Arabs enjoyed the common right of pilgrimage to Mecca. So the Prophet, to the great astonishment of Meccans and to the horror of its extremists, appeared at the head of a big peaceful campaign. Tension ran high, but after lengthy negotiations the *Quraishites* signed a truce with the Prophet.

In the following year *Quraishi* families evacuated their town, giving room to Muslim pilgrims to do their worshipping in peace. The roars of Muslims shouting "Allah is Mightier" together was a very agreeable prelude to the conquest of the city two years later.

For this, the Prophet prepared an army of 10,000 warriors and made several diplomatic moves, contacting the moderates of Mecca headed by Abu Sufyan. The Islamic show of power proved to have had great influence on the Meccans. The Islamic army approached Mecca's outskirts without facing any serious resistance.

The Prophet compared the time when he had migrated under the cover of darkness hunted by the *Quraishites* to his victorious approach to Mecca. His face was wet with tears of thankfulness. He made straight for the *Ka'aba*, striking the idols of the *Quraish*. The yielding crowds of Mecca shivered at the thought of vengeance by the Muslims. The Prophet, to their great satisfaction, declared a public amnesty and nobody was molested. This unique act of tolerance turned the infidel Meccans into enthusiastic Muslims, who after only one fortnight, sent 2,000 of their men to fight side by side with the Muslim army in *Hunain*. ■

Ramadan at the Philadelphia

On the occasion of Ramadan, the Philadelphia International Hotel has set up a Sahara Tent in the Tenth Floor creating a true Arab desert atmosphere for visitors.

Daily buffets are served every day for *Iftar* and *Suhour*. Patrons will have a chance to try unique Ramadan dishes prepared by professional chefs in addition to Ramadan drinks. As they eat they can enjoy Oriental music in an authentic Arab environment.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Exposition au CCF

La technologie française au chevet de Pétra

EDF, Spot-Image, l'Université de Nancy I. Les partenaires français de l'exposition "Sauvegarde de Pétra" proposent leurs services. Et peut-être des solutions

"NOTRE rôle, c'est simplement de réunir les travaux et recherches menées par tous les scientifiques et archéologues" déclarait lundi soir Jacques Seigne, responsable de l'entente d'Amman de l'Institut Français de l'Archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO). Après l'arrivée du Prince Hassan, qui offrira son patronage à l'exposition "Sauvegarde de Pétra", les partenaires français ont pu afficher leurs techniques et leurs idées.

Le premier d'entre eux, l'électrifié de France, travaille sur le site de Pétra depuis le mois de novembre dernier. "Il s'agit d'apporter des techniques à des pays en voie de développement", explique Marc Albouy, coordinateur du Mécénat Technologique et Scientifique.

Concrètement? D'abord, EDF dirige une étude sur l'alimentation de la roche à Pétra. Les travaux, réalisés par Bernard Haguenauer, géologue, professeur agrégé à l'Université de Nancy I, et Pierre Deléte, ingénieur, sont en cours. "Le diagnostic de la pathologie? Nous visons ça pour le mois de juin" affirme Bernard Haguenauer. En attendant, le docteur de la roche et son assistant vont travailler d'arrache-pied, au fond de leur laboratoire de Nancy, pour étudier le mécanisme de la maladie. C'est indispensable, avant d'établir l'ordonnance.

Deux traitements

"Il faudra deux types de traitement, dit Bernard Haguenauer, l'un préventif et l'autre curatif". Le professeur de l'Université de Nancy et son équipe vont bientôt déposer un brevet. "C'est une technique qui permettra de télécommander l'infiltration de la roche. Il sera possible de colmater les fissures avec une substance, la *polyuréthane*. La substance? Pour le moment, le sujet est top secret.

Au mois de juin, le mécanisme devrait être opérationnel. Mais avant de l'expérimenter, l'équipe du professeur Haguenauer attend d'être agréée par les autorités d'eau de la région. "Nous intervenons sur un monument de Pétra lorsque nous aurons une

bonne maîtrise de la technique, nous n'avons pas le droit de nous tromper".

Minire Albouy, responsable du mécénat à EDF entend bien, lui aussi agir avec prudence. Le site nabatéen est classé dans le Patrimoine Mondial. "Nous voulons travailler progressivement, commencer par une colonie ou un petit temple, nous ne nous précipitons pas à traiter tout Pétra, c'est à donner une méthode de restauration".

Une méthode bien rodée. Le Mécénat Technologique a déjà à son actif une quarantaine de dossiers. Les plus médiatiques: la reconstitution sur ordinateur en trois dimensions du temple de Karnak en Egypte ou le repérage de 1800 objets du Téméraire. "Cette opération, c'est mieux que les hommes au service des hommes" insiste Marc Albouy, faisant allusion à l'aspect publicitaire. Mais il ajoute: "La plupart de nos actions ne sont pas médiatisées".

Un autre partenaire de taille, et qui prend de la hauteur, est venu se greffer sur le projet. Il s'agit de la société privée Spot-Image, implantée à Toulouse. Elle commercialise les clichés du satellite "Spot". Spot-Image travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Centre National des Etudes Spatiales (CNES). Son idée: prendre des photos-satellite, qui permettront de définir les implantations possibles de retenues d'eau sur le Wadi Moussa. "L'objectif est de limiter les dégâts en cas de crues, mais aussi d'avoir des retenues d'eau dans une région mal arrosée", affirme Gabriel Bert, du Service du Développement Interna-



"Il faut préserver le patrimoine"

tionnel. Pour le réaliser, la société va faire appel au satellite Spot, qui accomplit inlassablement sa ronde autour de la terre. Son système de visée, unique au monde, équipé de miroirs orientables, lui permet d'obtenir des images verticales ou obliques dans un couloir de 950 km de large - et ceci à partir d'une même orbite. Spot peut aussi observer un même point à partir d'orbites différentes et fournir des "couples d'images stéréoscopiques". Le résultat: des photos en trois dimensions. Bénéficiaires: faire intervenir la simulation grâce à des logiciels performants, qui savent gérer le débit d'une rivière.

Spot-Image participe à l'opération au titre du mécénat. Sans prétendre de facture aucune, "C'est un site qui a une grande valeur, il faut préserver le patrimoine. Aussi, il est bon de faire connaître les technologies modernes" dit Gabriel Bert. Marc Albouy, d'EDF est sur la même longueur d'onde: "Il faut que celles-ci soient utilisées, transférées dans les milieux de l'archéologie". ■

Michel Armand

ÉCHANGE DE TECHNOLOGIES



WAT.



Les deux séismes en trois jours qui ont touché la Turquie, ont fait un millier de morts, selon les premières estimations. Vendredi dernier, une secousse d'une magnitude de 6,2 sur l'échelle de Richter a frappé Erzinçon. Une deuxième a été ressentie dimanche dans tout l'est du pays.

Télex... Jordanie... Télex... Jordanie

PONT - Le pont "King Hussein" sur le Jourdain vient de rouvrir. Depuis lundi, les voyageurs peuvent le traverser pour gagner la "Cisjordanie". Ce pont, qui a été touché par les exceptionnelles inépuables de cet hiver, avait dû être fermé pendant environ un mois. Les autorités jordaniennes ont encouragé les candidats à s'inscrire à respecter un calendrier des traversées pour éviter les embouteillages.

SPORT - La Jordanie va engager six à huit entraîneurs russes pour ses équipes de football et d'athlétisme. Cette décision découle d'une directive royale. Elle a pour but de promouvoir le sport jordanien. Le ministre de la Jeunesse, Saleh Irsheidat, va envoyer dans les mois qui viennent, un de ses accesseurs à Moscou, pour signer les contrats.

POSTE - Le "courrier à grande vitesse" jordanien va bientôt arriver dans tous les pays pourvus du système de distribution rapide. Celui-ci, introduit dans le royaume en 1986, permettait alors d'envoyer du courrier urgent à seulement 30 pays. Aujourd'hui, le système offre 140 destinations différentes à l'étranger. A l'intérieur des frontières, la distribution rapide sera possible entre les principales agglomérations, Amman, Zarqa, Irbid et Aqaba.

ESCWA - Après le voyage de son Secrétaire-Exécutif à Beyrouth, Tayseer Abdel-Jaber, l'antenne régionale de l'ONU vient de soumettre au Liban une proposition pour encourager une véritable agriculture. Celle-ci doit remplacer les cultures de drogues illicites. L'ESCWA, institution qui vise à favoriser le développement économique et social, se joint aux efforts de lutte contre la drogue lancés par les Nations Unies. Objectif: permettre au Liban de retrouver une agriculture saine et légale.

MISSION - Une mission du ministère français de l'économie et des finances a séjourné à Amman du 11 au 15 mars derniers. Celle-ci a pu faire le point avec le Service commercial de l'Ambassade de France sur l'évolution des relations économiques jordan-françaises. A cette occasion, les officiels de Bercy ont rencontré un large éventail d'industriels et d'hommes d'affaires jordaniens, ainsi que les responsables des 17 implantations françaises dans le royaume.

MAPRAQ - Cinquante tonnes de provisions alimentaires ont été distribuées lundi à 500 familles dans le bédouin, habitant Mafrak et les 10 villages voisins. La distribution a été supervisée par la Princesse Basma. L'organisateur est le "Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund".

Around the world with

A general knowledge Ramadan quiz

WEEK 3
To participate send in this slip after filling in the appropriate answers:

Answers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Mail to:
The Star,
Ramadan quiz,
WEEK 2,
POB 9313,
Amman-Jordan.

Questions/Week 3:

- 1- Where would you find the Angel Waterfall?
- 2- Which is the world's busiest airport?
- 3- In which country do people speak Tagalog?
- 4- Which US state is known as the "Magnolia State"?

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France

Les 20 ans de "Médecins sans frontières"

De l'Arménie à la Yougoslavie, du Salvador au Yémen, les MSF viennent au secours de victimes de catastrophes ou de guerres. Depuis 20 ans!

"ILS SONT des centaines de milliers. Une cohorte sans fin qui erre, paniquée, pieds nus, en pyjama, à 3.000 mètres d'altitude. Sans nourriture, sans couvertures. Un calvaire!" Au fin fond de la Turquie, Marcel Roux, décrit au téléphone, en mars 91, la fuite des Kurdes devant les troupes irakiennes. Il est l'un des ces "Médecins Sans Frontières" (MSF) qui composent la plus importante organisation privée d'aide médicale au monde.

Vingt-deux ans plus tôt, tandis que les regards étaient fixés sur la lune où des hommes posaient le pied, une guerre atroce faisait périr au Biafra deux millions d'être humains. A l'époque, le silence était de règle autour de ce type de drame: les organisations humanitaires imposaient à leurs équipes le devoir de réserve, condition croyaient-elles, de l'efficacité de leur action.

Tous ne l'entendaient pas de la sorte. Et notamment une poignée de médecins français, des compatriotes, qui dans le Paris de "mai 68", rêvaient de "changer la vie".

Des idéalistes de tous poils

Ils décidèrent de rompre cette loi du silence, pour en appeler à la conscience du monde. Ainsi naquirent les "Médecins Sans Frontières". Parmi les pionniers, l'on rencontrait des marxistes, des chrétiens, des athées, des idéalistes de tous poils. L'un d'eux, un praticien de 28 ans, Bernard Kouchner, deviendra Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Aide humanitaire.

La charte des MSF stipule qu'ils doivent venir au secours des victimes de catastrophes ou de guerres, "sans discrimination de race, de religion, de philosophie". En veillant à "maintenir une totale indépendance à l'égard de tous les pouvoirs". Les "French doctors" mettent en œuvre à grande échelle un système de santé qui attaque de front tous les problèmes: épidémiologie, nutrition, hygiène.

Le romancier irakien a passé trois jours dans la cité nabatéenne. A la recherche de l'inspiration, il va écrire un texte, dans le cadre de l'opération "Nouvelles de Pétra".

"QUICONQUE REAGIT de manière aussi enthousiaste devant Pétra ne peut être qu'un descendant des Nabatéens où la réincarnation de l'un d'eux" dit l'un des guides accompagnateurs de l'écrivain irakien Ibrahim Jabra. La scène date d'une semaine. Elle relate la rencontre entre un homme unique, enroué dans le patrimoine mondial et un autre, momentané de la littérature arabe. Ibrahim Jabra, né en 1920 à Beïrout, vient de sortir un roman, "Le journal de Sarah Afan", et un essai, "Le paradis perdu de Shakespeare en langue arabe". Il a écrit un nombre incalculable d'ouvrages dont l'un, traduit en français, "A la recherche de Walid Masoud", est sorti aux éditions J.C. Lattès.

Jabra, est resté trois jours dans la cité nabatéenne pour s'imprégner de la roche. Pour trouver l'inspiration et écrire un



MSF, 20 ans de lutte partout dans le monde

Mais les querelles intestines divisent la bande de copains. En 1980, Bernard Kouchner clique la porte et s'en va fonder une autre association: "Médecins du monde".

Les MSF connaissent alors, selon l'un d'eux, "une nouvelle naissance". L'organisation s'élargit à la Belgique, la Suisse, la Hollande, l'Espagne, la Grèce, la Luxembourg. Ils créent une "Unité Européenne d'urgence", force de frappe médicale qui peut intervenir partout dans les 24 heures.

En 20 ans, quelques dix mille MSF ont apporté leur aide dans plus de 80 pays. Leurs motivations? D'abord le souci de se rendre utiles, de servir. Pour certains, s'ajoute le goût de l'aventure, le besoin d'échapper à la routine, au confort. Au Liban, en 1976, les MSF soignent les civils blessés. Sous les bombes

et les balles, sans contact avec l'extérieur, ils font l'apprentissage de la médecine de guerre et de la peur.

De 1980 à 1990, 550 "French doctors" se succèdent en Afghanistan. Les premiers passent la frontière clandestinement, déguisés en Afghans. En 1988, en Arménie, lors d'un des tremblements de terre les plus meurtriers du siècle (25.000 morts), ils organisent un pont aérien et acheminent, vers des villages oubliés, des unités de soins médicaux, pour les survivants prisonniers des décombres. Une de leurs dernières missions les a conduits en Yougoslavie. Dans Dubrovnik bombardée, dans Vukovar en état de siège, ils se sont retrouvés en première ligne pour assister les victimes d'une guerre fratricide.

Des MSF paient cet engagement de leur vie ou de leur libé-

té. Deux d'entre-eux ont passé huit mois dans des geôles turques. Deux autres, survolant le Soudan, ont été abattus par un missile. En Afghanistan, un "French doctor" a été assassiné par des hommes masqués. Lorsqu'il expose le bilan de 20 ans d'action, le président de l'association, Rony Brauman, met l'accent sur des difficultés, ignorées du public, mais rencontrées par les équipes sur le terrain: "Plongés au cœur des conflits, les MSF se placent, sans ambiguïté du côté des victimes dont ils défendent les droits. Aussi, leur faut-il du doigt, de la diplomatie, du sens politique, pour contourner une bureaucratie toujours taillonnée, où pour se dérober aux attentions de militaires toujours soupçonneux". ■

Pierre Albert Lambert

Quand Jabra rencontre le site de Pétra

texte dans le cadre de l'opération "Nouvelles de Pétra", organisée conjointement par le ministère du Tourisme jordanien et le Service culturel français. Le résultat: un livre, qui doit sortir en 1993 où douze auteurs vont exprimer leur joie, leur passion, leur folie devant un tel pan de l'histoire mondiale.

Pour Ibrahim Jabra, écrivain irakien d'origine palestinienne, la parité est déjà gagnée. Ce voyageur insatiable vient de vivre, une expérience unique. Il connaissait Pétra par l'intermédiaire de photographes ou de films: "J'en ai vu des centaines, je pensais être familier avec la cité, mais j'étais dans l'air". La rencontre



Jabra

premiers moments, quand j'ai vu cette roche comme sculptée dans le paysage, ces montagnes qui semblaient lancer un défi à la vision".

Le romancier s'emporte, les mots se bousculent pour décrire des "Nabatéens amoureux de la roche, qui ne se sont pas trouvés forcés de vivre dans cette vallée pour survivre, mais qui ont choisi cet emplacement, cette ambiance particulière pour s'installer". Il ne tarit pas d'éloges envers "le talent d'imagination de ce peuple". Les émotions lui suggèrent des questions sur les "origines de la civilisation arabe, ses influences hellénistiques et romaines, ses croyances dans la réincarnation..."

Shuqailat n'était pas seulement belle. Elle dominait son peuple, faisait ostension de sa puissance, qui dépassait celle de son mari. Le romancier a encore quelques mois devant lui pour se laisser aller au "Jeu de l'imagination". ■

F.M.

L'EDITO

de Lama Filali

Au travail!

LA REGION du Proche-Orient a plus que jamais besoin de mettre en application le mot d'ordre "Au travail". Il est évident que les romans politico-militaires dont elle a été le théâtre ont généré un esprit de penseurs, de théoriciens en politique.

Bref de politiciens. Ceci au détriment des besoins et nécessités du développement économique et social dans cette partie du monde, fertile et riche, mais peu prospère. La dernière Crise du Golfe a amené la région à un déclin tel, qu'il a caché par son ampleur la dimension de la "Grande Disette". Certains ont alors pensé que la jeune religion de l'époque, l'islam, n'allait jamais s'en remettre.

En fait, la récente Crise devrait à l'insigne de la deuxième guerre mondiale au Japon et en Allemagne, apporter chez les peuples arabes le même soulagement que le même soulagement qui a ramené les deux vaincus de 1945 à la tête de liste des puissances économiques de nos jours.

Quand certains avant-gardistes baissent les bras et désertent leurs pays, les laissant ainsi en proie à la médiocrité, ils commentent par là, non pas un crime, mais plus grave, une erreur.

Le totalitarisme, responsable du bilan désastreux de la situation dans la plupart des pays dits en développement, a finalement été plus catastrophique encore que les guerres et les conflits qui ont purifié l'hémisphère sud.

Pur ailleurs, la démocratie, qui se ramène, souvent trop lentement dans certains pays, est le seul remède aux maux de ces sociétés. Chaque progrès devrait être consacré telle une victoire et par là même devenir un acquis.

Pour ainsi faire, le travail, le développement, l'application autant que faire se pourra, sont les ingrédients de la conscience civique, élément fondamental de la structure mentale d'une société candidate au développement.

Si les décennies passées ont été considérées par l'ONU comme ratées pour le développement, la quatrième décennie, c'est-à-dire les années 90, constitue un projet. Aux Etats-membres le programme et aux citoyens le travail. ■

The Star

Téléphone & fax 648.298

Téléx: Orient

ATTENTAT - Un attentat à la bombe s'est produit mardi après-midi à l'ambassade d'Israël située au cœur de la capitale de l'Argentine, Buenos Aires. Bilan provisoire: au moins 10 morts et 95 blessés. L'attentat a été revendiqué dans la soirée par "des nazis" et plus tard, à radio Mitre, par une voix étrangère disant appartenir à un groupe pour "la Palestine libre". Un employé de l'ambassade de France, toute proche, a été blessé par des éclats de verre.

JIHAD - L'organisation intégriste du Jihad islamique en Palestine a revendiqué mardi soir à Beyrouth, l'opération de Jaffa (Israël), au cours de laquelle deux Israéliens ont été tués et 20 blessés. Cette action est "dédiée" au chef du Hezbollah libanais tué par un résident israélien. Murtadi à Jaffa, un Palestinien de Jaffa avait tué deux Israéliens et en avait blessé 20 autres à coups de couteau avant d'être abattu par les tirs d'une garde-frontière.

TURQUIE - Un nouveau séisme d'une magnitude de 6 degrés sur l'échelle de Richter a touché dimanche à 18h30 locales, tout l'Est de la Turquie. Cette secousse a notamment été ressentie dans la ville sinistrée d'Erzincan, frappée vendredi par un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 6,2 à 6,8 sur l'échelle de Richter. Ce premier séisme, qui a particulièrement détruit la contre ville a fait un millier de morts selon les premières estimations. 320 corps identifiés et 1.086 blessés ont été retirés des décombres d'Erzincan dimanche, selon un bilan officiel provisoire.

ISRAËL - Les Etats-Unis soupçonnent fortement Israël d'avoir réexporté illégalement de la technologie militaire vers des pays comme la Chine et l'Afrique du sud. L'ambassade d'Israël à Washington a fait savoir que ces "allégations" de responsables américains, étaient des "questions délicates qui faisaient l'objet de négociations" entre les deux gouvernements. Marlin Fitzwater, porte parole du président Bush, a déclaré lundi que les Etats-Unis voulaient "de bonnes relations avec Israël" sans démentir les précédentes affirmations.

CHAZLI - Le général Saadeldin al-Chazli, chef d'état-major des forces armées égyptiennes pendant la guerre israélo-arabe de 1973, a été arrêté samedi à l'aéroport du Caire. Il revient d'un exil politique de 14 ans. En juillet 1983, le général Chazli avait été condamné par contumace à trois ans de travaux forcés par la Haute Cour militaire de justice. Il était accusé de divulgation de secrets militaires dans ses mémoires publiés pendant son exil et interdits en Egypte.

Interview du ministre des communications

Arabsat en dix leçons



Jamal Al Sarulreh

Le Jourdain: Vous êtes en France lors du lancement d'Arabsat 1-C. Sa carte d'identité?

Jamal Al Sarulreh: Arabsat 1-C est le troisième satellite de la première génération pour le réseau Arabsat. C'est le même modèle que Arabsat 1-A et 1-B. Son rôle est de remplacer Arabsat 1-A qui est à court d'énergie et qui assure maintenant les lignes régionales entre pays arabes. Notre participation est de 3,3% des investissements d'Arabsat.

L.J: Arabsat, c'est indispensable pour la Jordanie?

J.A.S: La Jordanie n'est pas obligée de souscrire à Arabsat, mais c'est dans notre intérêt de participer à ce réseau. Car INTEL-SAT (l'organisation internationale des télécommunications par satellite) n'est pas en mesure de fournir suffisamment d'espace pour satisfaire nos demandes de plus en plus importantes en matière de lignes.

L.J: Arabsat 1-C peut transporter 8.000 lignes de téléphone. Quelles sont les applications pour la Jordanie?

J.A.S: Les principales applications, ce sont le téléphone, le fax ou le télex. Nous occupons à peu près 250 chaînes de téléphone dans le réseau. Aussi, nous utilisons une partie de la capacité du satellite pour la télévision. Nos activités de l'année dernière dans ce domaine s'élevaient à 4723 minutes pour la transmission et 23.640 pour la réception.

L.J: Envisagez-vous une hausse des taxes sur les communications internationales et pourquoi?

J.A.S: Les services de télécommunications en Jordanie sont

rendus par une société d'Etat (TCC). Les prix et les taxes sur ces services sont régulés par l'Etat et doivent être décrets par le gouvernement. Bien que la plupart des pays aient un droit souverain d'imposer des taxes sur les services de télécommunications, la taxation imposée aux Jordaniens est minimale. C'est de l'ordre de 10% de la valeur de la note de téléphone. C'est pourquoi, envisager une hausse imminente des taxes est improbable. Il faut éviter de surcharger les usagers de taxes.

Pour ce qui est des coûts des appels locaux, la pratique, en particulier dans les pays développés, consiste depuis longtemps à imposer des charges raisonnables, dans le but d'éviter certaines difficultés dans les couches sociales défavorisées. Le principe qui consiste à séparer artificiellement les coûts des différents services est adopté pour permettre aux utilisateurs à revenus modérés d'avoir accès aux services. C'est pourquoi, une partie des coûts des communications locales est transférée sur les appels à longue distance et

internationaux, qui sont abordables pour les classes moyennes et élevées.

La tendance est en train de changer. Un bon nombre de pays va adopter un système de prix vis-à-vis des services-télécoms beaucoup plus rationnel, directement lié aux coûts de production du service. La Jordanie suit de très près cette possibilité. Le système est aussi géré par des factures nationales et internationales.

L.J: Dans les dix années qui viennent, Arabsat va préparer une seconde génération de satellites. Qu'en attendez-vous?

J.A.S: Les spécificités de la seconde génération d'Arabsat sont déjà définies et mises à disposition. Arabsat entend lancer cette nouvelle génération en 1996. Celle-ci doit fournir des services numériques à des coûts moindres. Elle doit aussi composer des "Ku-Band transponders", ce qui permettra l'utilisation d'antennes de petite taille. ■

Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer

Le 49ème vol d'Ariane

Pur Nadcem Khoury

VINGT-SIX février 1992, 20h50 et 09 secondes, Kourou, heure locale (23h 58mn 09s GMT). Une fusée Ariane décolle au Centre spatial de la Guyane française. Elle transporte deux satellites de communications: Arabsat-1C et le japonais Superbird-B1.

Les deux mises sur orbite se déroulent dans les meilleures conditions. Ce lancement marque le 49ème vol d'Ariane (le 21ème pour la puissante Ariane-4) depuis le début des activités commerciales d'Arianespace en 1982.

L'objectif principal du lancement d'un tel satellite de communications est de le placer en orbite "géostationnaire" autour de la terre. Dans cette orbite, établie à 36.000 km de l'équateur, le satellite fait le tour de notre planète toutes les 24 h. Il est par là même synchronisé avec son mouvement naturel, d'où le terme "géostationnaire".

Arabsat 1C

Dans ce cas, le satellite est fixe pour un observateur sur terre. L'avantage d'une telle orbite: elle garantit une couverture des zones voulues.

Arabsat 1C, la troisième des satellites Arabsat de la première génération, lancé avec succès par la fusée Ariane-4 le 26 février dernier, a été finalement placé en orbite "géostationnaire" le 3 mars 1992. Les opérations de contrôle au sol ont été conduites par l'Agence spatiale française (CNES) depuis le centre de Toulouse, en France, en coopération avec l'Aérospatiale - le constructeur des satellites de la première génération.

Depuis, les opérations sont passées sous le contrôle de l'organisation Arabsat. Ce réseau comporte deux stations: la première à Dimb (près de Riyad, en Arabie Saoudite), la deuxième en Tunisie.

A présent, le satellite de communications est en période de test. Les spécialistes au sol vérifient ses performances. Le satellite doit être opérationnel vers le 20 mars 1992.

Arabsat-1C est le troisième de la première génération des satellites "Arabsat" construits par l'Aérospatiale. Et ce pour Arabsat, l'organisation panarabe qui travaille sous la coupe de la Ligue arabe.

Les deux premiers satellites (1A et 1B), ont été lancés au milieu des années 80, et ont été utilisés pour assurer une grande

variété de communications. En accord avec les plans de départ d'Arabsat, la mission d'un des satellites était d'être tout de suite opérationnel.

L'autre, était là pour pallier les éventuelles défaillances du premier. La demande grandissante a forcé Arabsat à les mettre tous les deux en service, tout en maintenant la priorité pour les lignes régionales, en cas de défaillance de l'un des deux satellites. Arabsat 1C, construit un peu plus tard, était alors gardé au sol.

En raison de sérieux problèmes rencontrés récemment par Arabsat 1A, qui supporte les lignes régionales primaires, la décision de lancer le troisième satellite (1C) a été prise. Celui-ci était en réserve depuis plusieurs années: dans les hangars de l'Aérospatiale à Nice. Arabsat 1C est la parfaite reproduction des deux autres satellites. Il est capable de transporter 8.000 lignes de téléphone ainsi que des programmes de télévision.

Les projets d'Arabsat comprennent la préparation d'une seconde génération de satellites. Le tout premier de cette génération sera lancé en 1996. Ces satellites auront un "design" différent des précédents et seront plus efficaces afin de satisfaire la demande pour les dix années qui viennent. ■

Nadcem Khoury est l'expert directeur du réseau Arabsat.

Téléx: France

HUSSEIN - Le roi Hussein et le président français, François Mitterrand se sont rencontrés lundi au Palais de l'Élysée. Les discussions ont porté sur les relations franco-jordanaises et sur la Conférence de paix. François Mitterrand a exprimé l'engagement de la France à soutenir les pourparlers de paix. Le président Mitterrand a également souligné que son pays aiderait la Jordanie à faire face à ses difficultés.

TURQUIE - Le Premier ministre français, Edouard Cresson a annoncé samedi l'envoi en Turquie de deux unités spéciales de la Sécurité civile, après le tremblement de terre qui a touché vendredi la région d'Erzincan. "Soyez assurés de la complète solidarité de la France dans cette catastrophe", a précisé Edouard Cresson. La Croix Rouge, le Croissant Rouge et Médecins Sans Frontières ont également dépêché des équipes sur place.

F.N. - Un meeting du Front National pour la campagne des élections régionales a donné lieu à de violents incidents samedi soir à Charleville (centre) entre militants d'extrême-droite et contre-manifestants. Ces échauffourées ont fait plusieurs blessés. Quatre militants d'extrême-droite ont été interpellés par les forces de l'ordre.

TAPIE - L'homme d'affaires Bernard Tapie, leader des listes socialistes du sud-est de la France pour les élections régionales, a été condamné jeudi par un tribunal de Marseille, pour avoir triché "à l'aveugle" lors d'une réunion publique le 28 janvier. M. Tapie, député de Marseille et président de l'équipe de football de la ville, avait déclaré, "si le Pen est un salaud, ceux qui votent pour lui sont des salauds".

DEFICIT - Le déficit budgétaire de la France pour 1991 dépasse de 63% les prévisions initiales. Il atteint 131,7 milliards de FF (23,51 milliards de dollars) contre 93,15 milliards de FF (16 milliards de dollars) en 1990. Les prévisions initiales du gouvernement, tablèrent sur un déficit budgétaire de 80,7 milliards de FF.

POIRET - Jean Poiret, humoriste, chansonnier, comédien, auteur, metteur en scène de théâtre et de cinéma est mort samedi à 65 ans à Paris après avoir eu le temps de donner le dernier tour de manivelle à son premier film: "Le zèbre". L'interprète de la "Cage aux Folles" a été terrassé par une crise cardiaque. Né le 17 août 1926 à Paris, il disait dans sa jeunesse vouloir devenir employé des Pompes Funèbres, et qu'il y avait renoncé pour se consacrer au théâtre.

AROUND TOWN

● HRH Princess Basma, chairperson of Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees, received a cheque for JD 20,000 in donation to the Fund's charity campaign launched during Ramadan. Dr Hassan Khreis, who chairs the Amman-based Amb Health Committee, handed Princess Basma the cheque last week, noting that it was part of the committee's contribution to QAF's current campaign to help the needy, especially those affected by the recent snowstorm in the kingdom.

● Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) met Wednesday with the EC Group Ambassador in Amman, Mr Christian Falkowski. The meeting was designed to discuss matters of priority to Jordan in general and to ESCWA in particular. The discussion included issues such as water resources, environment, population planning and the development and supporting of the private sector.

● The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan announces its rescheduled activities:
— OKI Fax-sponsored National Rally: Friday 10 April.
— OKI Fax-sponsored speed test: Friday 24 April.
— Silk Cut-sponsored Jordan International Rally: Thursday and Friday 21 and 22 May.

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● El Urdon Club organized an open team bridge tournament in cooperation with the Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) at the club's premises in Jbal Weibdeh.

The first place was captured by the JBA's mixed team, captained by Mrs Nawzad Shaker and which also included Mrs Hanan El Masri, Ms Serene Harakat, Mr Murwan Ghanem and Mr Ghassan Ghanem.

El Urdon Club held this tournament in memory of the late Mazen El Ajlouni, the first president of JBA and an ex-president of El Urdon Club.

The memorial trophies were given by Mr Aywad Haddad of El Urdon Club during a ceremony held on the premises of JBA.

— Bakudna milk-sponsored Rally: Friday 10 July.
— OKI Fax-sponsored speed test: Friday 31 July.
— Silk Cut sponsored Um Al Rumman uphill race: 21 August.
— OKI Fax-sponsored speed test: Friday 9 October.
— National Rally: Friday 20 November.

Participation in the April National Rally is open to all. Deadline is 2 April. Track guide will be distributed on 25 March.

Agenda

Films

■ The American Cultural Center will present the film "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" at 2:30 pm. The beautiful voice of Howard Keel can again be heard in this Academy Award-winning musical comedy.

■ Also at the American Cultural Center, the film "The Wizard of Oz" will be shown on Sunday 22 March at 2:30 pm. This film is an annual musical treat for the entire family.

Exhibitions

■ At the French Cultural Center, in cooperation with UNESCO and the French Archaeological Institute (IFAPO), an exhibition entitled "Modern Technology at the Service of Archaeology" will be opened on Monday 16 March at 7:30 pm. The exhibition will run until 29 March.

■ At Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, the art exhibition of artists Ghada Dahdaleh, Ayad Al Nimer and Larissa Najjar will be opened today and it will run until 15 April. Daily from 10 am to 4 pm, except on Sundays and Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm and 7-9 pm.

Field Trips

■ Friends of Archaeology will be conducting a field trip to Jerash on Friday 20 March. The trip will be led by Mr Jacques Selgna, director of the French Archaeological Institute (IFAPO). Departure will be from the Amiri Hotel parking lot at 9 am, in private cars.



A scene from 'A Woman Rebel and Aragoz'

A promising future Jordan's first Youth Theater Festival

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

UNDER THE patronage of her Highness Queen Noor, the Jordanian Artists' Association have organized and sponsored Jordan's first Youth Theater Festival, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre between March 14 and March 27.

Six local theater productions, from a total of 12 who competed to appear at the festival, will be competing for awards for the best play, direction, main male and female roles, supporting male and female roles, script, lighting, setting and make up.

The participating theater artists are all graduates from Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Egypt, and will introduce fresh ideas, theater standards and artistic beliefs through their productions, which will be evaluated and discussed by artists and public figures the third day after performing at the association's premises.

"Every year Jordan has 50 new theater graduates," said Nabool Shoumali, secretary of the association, and a member of the festival's supervising committee. "Our association decided to establish the tradition of introducing them to the Jordanian audience by facilitating their work and financing their productions. This is also how we came up with the idea behind the festival."

The festival's entry play was 'A Woman Rebel and Aragoz', written, directed and set by Hakeem Harb and featuring four wonderful actors: Hakeem Harb himself, Imad Yunis, Kifah Salama and Mohammad Al Soukka. The play is an adaptation of Sophocles' 'Antigone' and Ian Juv's 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Wild Woman'.

It is a superb theater piece with powerful acting impact, a solid play structure and deep human expression. As Hakeem Harb mentioned:

"The main pillar of the production is an actor with soul and his body as an instrument of his expression. Every actor has established a deep understanding of his role through searching his character's extremes and by establishing a satisfactory level for his presentation."

The acting team were harmoniously coordinated, giving a further dimension to the play. They believe that their play can be

performed in any environment setting, such as a street, park, beach or coffee-shop, without losing its beauty.

"The essence of this play is in the relationships between the ac-



tor and himself, other actors and the audience," said actor Imad Yunis, recalling that for him, the audience was a part of the play itself.

"They were like a city senate, with the power to interfere and judge us on the stage. I could feel their vibrations coming from all sides, helping me to modify my character and achieve solutions and answers to my problems. The strength of my voice, the length of my silences and the intensity of my feelings were adjusted according to their interaction."

Another character of the play was Aragoz, the puppet. He gives the play the flavor of the Arabic theater heritage, voicing the unconscious of the characters and accelerating the dramatic action.

Hakeem Harb sees the play as a genuine version of Arab reality. "We are all moved by invisible strings, like puppets, in spite of our dreams, wishes and ambitions," he said. "There is a continuity in human fate and a constant repetition of history. There were always leaders and rebels. Today we need rebels to bring us peace. This dream will one day be reality."

Other plays to be performed at the festival will be 'Hunger', directed by Issa Hilal, 'The Main Street', by Aid Madi, 'The Hat and Profit', by Alimad Al Farooq, 'Soft Desert Sand', by Ziad Jula and 'The Eye' by Zari Zabi.

Adventurous spirit helps Fiennes trace lost Ubar

A COMBINATION of modern technology, impeccable aristocratic connections and a spirit of adventure that would shame Indiana Jones have led Sir Ranulph Fiennes to the lost city of Ubar on the edge of the barren 'empty quarter' of Arabia.

Described by T.E. Lawrence as the "Atlantis of the sands", Ubar has, according to Bedouin legend, been buried in the desert for more than 15 centuries until Sir Ranulph and his colleagues uncovered evidence for its rediscovery at the end of last year.

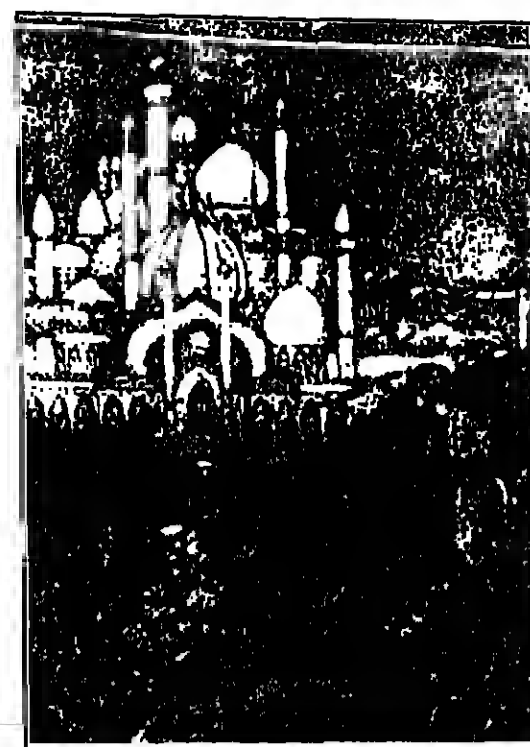
A team of American explorers and archaeologists believe they have found the lost city with the help of satellite photographs provided by NASA, painstaking research and Sir Ranulph's local knowledge and connections with royal figures such as Sultan Qabus Bin Said of Oman.

Although archaeologists are reserving judgement until they see the results of archaeological work still in progress, Sir Ranulph said yesterday he was convinced that Ubar lies under the small settlement of Shisr, about 95 miles north-west of Salalah in Oman.

He admitted that most of the evidence he has uncovered is circumstantial. "But it is as circumstantial as finding the body in the garden of the murder suspect. I would say as a non-archaeologist that this is definitely Ubar."

Over the years various writers have described an ornate city of splendid towers in the middle of the desert that became the centre of the lucrative trade in frankincense, an aromatic resin from the nearby Qara mountains of Dhufar, which was used in religious ceremonies, perfumes and medicines.

Frankincense, derived from the bark of a rare tree, was more valuable than gold and Ubar became an important city on the



stood 30ft high, various rooms, frankincense burners and thousands of pieces of pottery and glass artefacts.

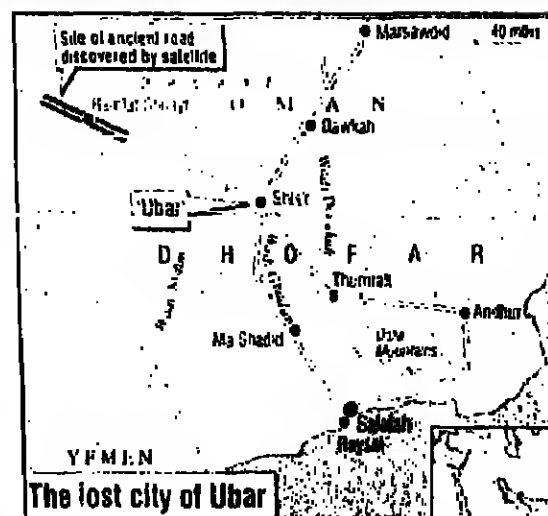
Sir Ranulph said the evidence suggested that the Irem mentioned in the Koran, Ptolemy's Omanum Emporium and the Bedouin's Ubar are the same ancient city found under Shisr. Irem, the Koranic version of Sodom and Gomorrah, is described in the Koran as "the many towers city of Irem... whose like has not been built in the entire land."

Educated at Eton and trained with the SAS, Sir Ranulph has led a life of exploration and adventure. In addition to searching for Ubar, he has attempted four times to walk unaided to the North Pole, written eight non-fiction books and claims to have foiled an assassination attempt on his life by a group of hired killers known as the Clinic, who

trade route north to Mesopotamia for the 2,500-camel caravans needed to transport it safely across the desert, Sir Ranulph said.

As long ago as 4000 BC, Ubar became the established center of the frankincense trade and survived until about AD 500 according to Bedouin legend: Claudius Ptolemy, the Greek astronomer and cartographer of the second century AD, refers to a similar city in the desert called Omanum Emporium and the Koran refers to a city called Irem which was destroyed by God about the time that Ubar is said to have gone into decline.

An initial archaeological survey of the site at Shisr has found a city bounded by an octagonal wall of between 6ft and 8ft thick. Researchers discovered remnants of seven out of a total of eight towers estimated to have



The lost city of Ubar

he says were paid to murder former British soldiers who had fought in the Arabian desert. He first became interested in Ubar in the Sixties when he was seconded by the Army to fight communist insurgents in the region, which is bordered by Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen.

"The Bedouin wandered the sands on all sides of the three borders. They were the people who were rich with the tales of the lost city of Ubar." They talked about "pillars in the sand," he said.

After several failed attempts to find Ubar over more than 10 years, Sir Ranulph's breakthrough came in 1986 when the space shuttle Challenger provided a satellite picture of an ancient road. Further images taken several years later of the road near Ramlat Shuayar suggested that it had run north-west from Shisr, a site that Sir Ranulph had camped at three times during his Army days. The photographs did not locate the lost city

on closer inspection the stones used to make it turned out to be about 2,000 years older and possibly came from the rubble of Ubar. Radar images taken of underground structures also revealed a well head at Shisr about 4m square that was evidently a large and ancient water source.

The archaeologists, led by Dr Juris Zarins of Southwest Missouri State University, have discovered that a cataclysmic subsidence of a large area within the ancient city walls occurred probably about AD 500 as a result of the water level of the underground aquifer falling and causing fissures in the limestone rock on which the city was built. After the collapse, much of the city was buried in up to 30ft of sand. The city's physical collapse occurred at about the same time as the collapse of the frankincense trade, Sir Ranulph said.

The Independent

Rawdah El-Hudhud: Nationalistic children's writer

Continued from page 5

foot. Head first, he descended to the ground, with his grip on the spear beneath his waist. "My white garment is my coffin," said Aamer to himself, advancing forward slowly.

Likewise, the officer was advancing; the former crawling in centimeters, the latter advancing in meters; one crawling and the other advancing, until Aamer reached where the officer stood. The officer stretched his strong, right hand to Aamer whose body was piled over his spear. A serious meeting between a deft murderer, and a faithful to Allah; between an occupier of the land, and a defender of it; a perilous confrontation between an officer who has been trained in murder and has practised it hundreds of times, and between a youth who intends to kill for the first time. Between an officer armed with an automatic revolver, and a young man armed with a home-made spear; a dangerous confrontation between an officer standing on his feet, and a youth wounded in one of his feet.

The story of Aamer Abu Sarhan, the Obideyyeh hero, is the story of every Palestinian youth inside the occupied territories; his suffering, his fears, his aborted ambitions, and his hope for salvation express those of his fellow citizens. In this story, as in all the rest of her stories, Rawdah El-Hudhud delineates characters and events in a skillful, realistic, simple style. When reading her stories to children one observes their reaction: "After every pause, they reticent 'And then?'"

The ability to hold the listener's breath in suspense and arouse his expectations are essential properties of story telling, as Barbara Hardy noted in one of her excellent essays on the art of novel writing. In Rawdah's stories, these qualities are evidently there — helping to classify her as one of Jordan's best writers for children. ■

Fahd A. Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.

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Would You Believe.....

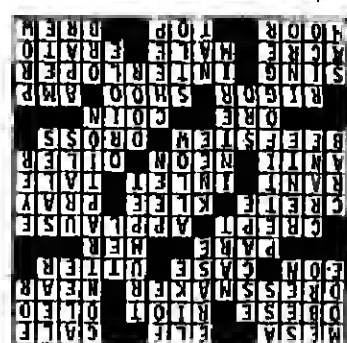
Nearly one of every 10 U.S. residents relies on food stamps to help put food on the table.

Two 11-year-old girls recently drove 10 hours from West Virginia to Kentucky on their own. They made it safely, even stopping for gas along the way. Their reason? They wanted to see a newborn niece.

A new survey found that the average U.S. resident spends almost 30 hours a week in front of the television. Teen-agers watch the least TV, however, with 23 hours a week. Women watch the most, 32 hours.

In rural Russia, there's a Halloween-like festival held at Christmas in which singers wish good health and fortune to neighbors who respond with hospitality to their singing and wish a painful death to those who don't.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Aggressive bidding

TAKE THIS hand from last Friday's weekly open team of the Jordan Bridge Association:

Dealer: West. Vulnerable: NS. Hand: ♠ K 6, ♥ K Q J 6 5 4, ♦ 3 2, ♣ Q 5 4.

Hand: ♠ J 7, ♥ A 8 7, ♦ K Q J 5, ♣ 8 7 6 3. Opponent's hand: ♠ Q 5 4, ♥ 10 9 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7, ♣ K J 10.

Bidding - Open room:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bidding - Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	End

At the open room, North evaluated his hand as an opening hand of the one level, an idea I didn't agree with, though of the semi solid suit, the hand is Aceless and the outside values are on their own without any protection.

At the closed room, North opened two hearts. In addition to the previous reasoning, his side is vulnerable and he is in the second seat, which means that his weak two opening should be in its upper range.

Three Clubs by South is really asking about a singleton. North denied any one and South, sure of two cards of Spade invited the game.

North with his maximum hand and spade king bids the game without any hesitation.

Good players tend to bid aggressively when playing teams, but I still believe that North over evaluated his hand, passing or bidding two Spades would have produced good results.

Anyhow, if you bid it you should make your best to make it. West led the Diamond king, how do you play the hand?

South wins with the Ace and plays his heart directly. West ducks, but the declarer continues with a high heart which West wins, cashes a diamond and plays his highest club. Declarer wins, plays his spade Ace and king ending in dummy. Declarer cashes the high heart which drops the outside hearts and continues with a good heart.

East either ruffs or is not immaterial, declarer discards his last Club.

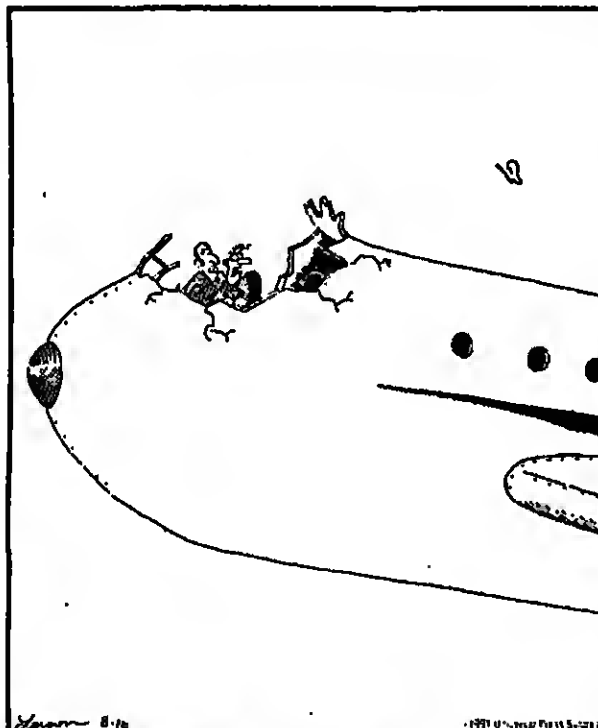
To make the contract, hearts must be divided evenly (3-3), spade should be divided favorably (6-2) and west should not lead clubs (50%), a 12% chance to make the game, not good enough to bid it!

THE FAR SIDE

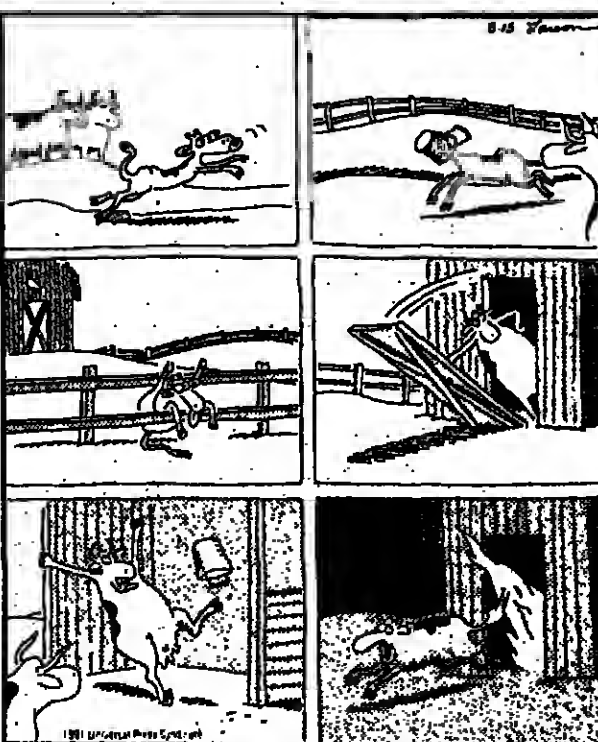
By GARY LARSON



"You know, Bjorg, there's something about holding a good, solid mace in your hand - you just look for an excuse to smash something."



"Oh, great! Now there goes my hat!"



The life and times of Lulu, Mrs. O'Leary's ill-fated cow.

ROCK TRACKS

By Stephanie DuBois

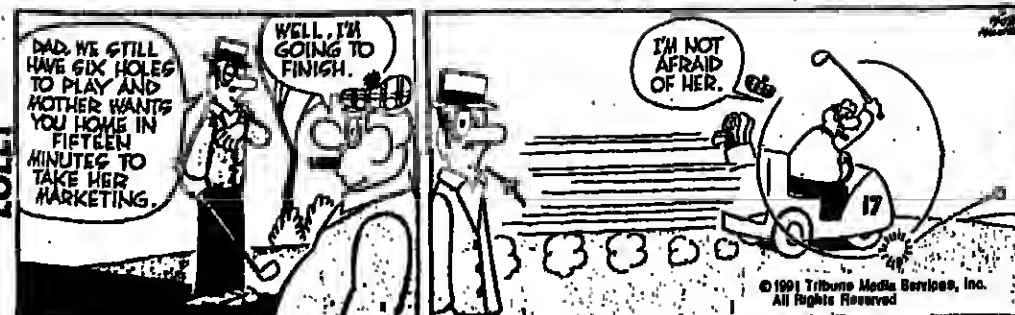
Quincy Jones recently returned from a trip to Africa in search of artists for his West Records label.

Jones believes a unified global communication through music is just around the corner and is committed to turning the Warner Bros. subsidiary into a world beat affair. Quincy's first world beat artist is Brazilian composer/guitarist Dorci Caymmi. Jones says of Caymmi's critically-acclaimed debut, "Brazilian Serenata" album, "Dorci's music speaks not just for itself, but for people of all persuasions throughout the world."

Songstress Malba Moore says she's talked Gladys Knight into making her producing debut with Moore's next album. She says the collaboration "is a unique situation that came out of our friendship. I said to her one day, 'Gladys, as much as you do with reworking other people's material, you could exec produce a whole album' - and I asked her to do mine. She was very excited, because she's been doing work like this throughout the years, but never had her name on anything." Moore won't be able to work on the disk, which also will have Stavlis Wonder's input, until next year because of Knight's schedule. "Gladys is out on the road, but she's already come up with two songs that are killing," says Moore. Meanwhile, she's working on a one-woman show, "Soul Exposed," to take on the road in February. Moore says she's doing the show "for the purpose of getting back into theater and acting. It will be largely musical, but not in concert form."

Singer Bonnie Sheridan (formerly Bonnie Bramlett of Delaney & Bonnie fame) says she plans to milk her exposure as the sassy waitress Bonnie on "Roseanne" for all it's worth. "It's awesome to realize that being on one of the top hit TV shows means that more people see me on this series than have in my whole career," Sheridan, whose latest group is the Bandaloo Doctors, says thanks to "Roseanne" she's tapped into a whole new generation of fans. "I just sang about four bars in one episode, and I was getting fan mail saying 'Man, you're really good. You should make records,'" laughs the singer, who has some 20-plus albums to her credit. In fact, Rhino Records plans to release a "Best of" compilation CD in February of her first band, Delaney & Bonnie & Friends with Eric Clapton. And a limited edition "Live" CD of Bandaloo Doctors is soon to be issued. Sheridan plans to head out on tour with the Doctors when she breaks from "Roseanne" in the spring.

Rock 'n' roll pioneer Cori Parkins, who underwent treatment for a cancerous growth in his throat last spring, has now been given a clean bill of health by his doctors. The rocker has a new album ready for release Jan. 21.



MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions - horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all found words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

LOOK TO THE STARS (Sol: 13 letters)
A-Aquarius, Aries, Astrology, Aurora; B-Big Dipper, Bull; C-Cancer; Code, Comet, Cusp; E-Epoch; F-Fish, Flicker; G-Gaze, Gemini, Glow, Goat; H-Heaven; Hemisphere; I-Luna, Lion, Luminous; M-Mars, Meteor, Milky Way, Moon; N-Nadir; O-Orion; P-Path, Pisces, Planet; S-Saturn, Scorpio, Sign, Star; T-Taurus, Telescope, Twinkle, Twins; V-Venus, Virgo; W-Wish; Z-Zenith.

NOVTELESCOPES: This Week's Magic Word.

REPOCHLSCORPIOC
OZENITHISUNEVGO
EATENALPNADIRG
TEREHPSIMHNOIL
ENOIRUWNGISRVO
MCODEBIGDIPPERW
NRUTASRLRATSCSN
SATWHGALGMOONRY
NUEIHEUOSTEAAA
ERMNSMQBAPSUCMW
VOOSIIASTROLOGY
ARCNFNSECSIPALK
EAOTWNKLELZATL
HUTELESCOPEION
SURUATSREKCLFM

TOP POP SINGLES

- 2 Legit 2 Quit, Hammer, Capitol
- It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday, Boyz II Men, Tommy Boy
- All 4 Love, Color Me Badd, Giant
- Black or White, Michael Jackson, Epic
- Set Adrift on Memory Bliss, P.M. Dawn, Gee Street
- Finally, Ce Ce Peniston, A&M
- Can't Let Go, Mariah Carey, Columbia
- Wildside, Morky Mark & The Funky Bunch, Interscope
- When a Man Loves a Woman, Michael Bolton, Columbia

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

- Backdraft, Kurt Russell, Robert De Niro, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
- FX2: The Deadly De-lusion, Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy, Orion Home Video (PG-13-1991)
- The Silence of the Lambs, Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Orion Home Video (R-1991)
- What About Bob?, Bill Murray, Richard Dreyfuss, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1991)
- Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-13-1991)

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

- Ropin' the Wind, Garth Brooks, Capitol
- No Fences, Garth Brooks, Capitol
- Pocket Full of Gold, Vince Gill, MCA
- Trisha Yearwood, Trisha Yearwood, MCA
- For My Broken Heart, Reba McEntire, MCA
- Greatest Hits Vol. II, The Judds, RCA
- It's All About to Change, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.

Creature feature

Atlantic manta (Manta birostris)

Home: Coastal waters and open sea of Atlantic Ocean; North Carolina to Brazil; Madeira to West Africa

Habits: Flashy lobes at each side of mouth can be rolled or extended to act as scoops for food; the manta eats fish, large crustaceans and tiny planktonic creatures; young hatch inside the mother and are born well-developed

Claim to fame: This huge creature, also known as the giant devil ray, is the largest living ray - 17 feet long and 22 feet wide

SOURCE: Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia; Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bohlen

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating - one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" - followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: "HOT SHOTS" (Fox, \$94.98): One of last year's top hits, this comedy from director Jim Abrahams - part of the "Naked Gun" - "Airplane!" team - regales in sending up military movies of the past, especially "Top Gun." Charlize Shean plays an ace pilot involved in a top-secret mission, with Lloyd Bridges providing great support as his commander; Valeria Golino and Jon Cryer also star. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"MOBSTERS" (MCA/Universal, \$91.95): If it's not accepted as the absolute truth about its subjects, this stylish representation of the younger years of several gangland figures is entertaining in a very slick way. Patrick Dempsey, Richard Grieco, Costas Mandylor and Christian Slater act out the roots of such famous criminals as Bugsy Siegel - sorry, Warren Beatty - and Lucky Luciano. ** (R: AS, P, V)

"LIFE STINKS" (MGM/UA, \$64.98): Though not quite up to the level of his no-holds-barred satires like "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein," this comedy still lets director and star Mel Brooks milk some good laughs from its premise. In a "Trading Places"-like plot, he plays a wealthy man out to win a bet by becoming a street person for a month; Lesley Ann Warren also appears. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VELED
DAUGY
INCLEY
RYBBAC

ANSWER: THE "C O U N T R Y"

ANSWER: DELVE GAUDY NICELY CRABBY



The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
21-27
March

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — The Stamps of Greatness: The autobiography of the Scotch, bohemian poet Robert Burns better known as the peasants' poet, who lived in the 18-19 century.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film: "The Man From the Pru" Starring Jonathan Pryce and Susannah York: William Wallace, a brilliant scientist is accused of killing his wife in Liverpool in 1931 where he was indicted and later acquitted.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Journeys to Art: A social and cultural program on the Islamic city of Asfahan in Iran, and the different historical eras it went through ever since it was built 4,000 years ago.
9:10 — Equinox: Tonight's episode talks about microscopic parts of plants and live cells, on the one hand, and the modern technological apparatuses to magnify them thereby enabling scientists to study them more efficiently.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order: A couple are murdered. Investigation reveals the murderer to be the husband's partner.

MONDAY

8:30 — Land of Hope and Gloria: Assisted by an American expert, Gloria manages to turn Beaumont House into a house of horrors.
9:10 — Capital City: Max is sent to Warsaw to work on a swap deal to build an oil tanker for a client. After lengthy and exhausting negotiations the deal does not pull through.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Ruth Rendell: A mystery movie about a man whose victims are the rich and famous musician Sir Brannock. Nathaniel, his daughter, comes to claim her legal inheritance, but the chief detective is convinced that she is an impostor.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: In tonight's episode two girls decide to join the football team!
9:10 — Golden Years: The killer Andrews is hot on the heels of Harland. General Luis, on the other hand, pursues Andrews and is determined to deter him.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Selling Hitler: In 1945, a German air force marshal smuggles 10 planes loaded with classified information, official documents and history of the German Reich to a secret place for safe keeping. One of the planes crashes enabling a forger to distort Hitler's character.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Scientific Legacy of the Arabs: A documentary program on the contributions of Arab scientists in the field of botany and the use of plants in medicine.
9:10 — National Auburn Society: "Grizzly and Man—An Easy Truce": It was believed in the West that grizzly bears will always be wild; nowadays, it is proven that those animals are able to adapt to a man-dominated world.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Drug wars: Harley manages to kidnap drug dealer Raymond and send him stealthily to America to stand trial.

10:20 — Drug wars: Harley manages to kidnap drug dealer Raymond and send him stealthily to America to stand trial.

THURSDAY

8:30 — Spitz: "Death of a Spitzman": TJ, the staff director, is mistakenly pronounced dead by the computer, which gives TJ a hell of a time.
9:10 — NBA Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week: "Palomino" Starring Lindsay Frost: The film is about the love story of a woman who overcomes countless hurdles to reach a happy life.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: While Lenny's mother is very uptight about the fact that her husband went to the funeral of the woman he was in love with fifty years ago, Lenny and his co-workers become trapped in the mine which collapsed while they were inside.
9:10 — Derrick: In tonight's detective series a prisoner decides to get revenge.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Chancer: "Love": Stephen makes a suicidal bet with Franklin just to save Douglas Motors from Japanese competitors.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja: A cartoon series.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine: 7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes: A classical music program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — La maison bleue: A cartoon series.
5:45 — L'art Mukondé du Mozambique: A program about sculptures.
6:10 — L'école des fans: Children sing the songs of their favorite singers. Tonight's guest is Henri Salvador.
7:00 — News in French.



Evening Shade on Tuesday at 8:30

7:15 — Fusions. "L'événement — le message de l'espace". A program about the use of satellites in communications and the exchange of news.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau: A documentary program about life on the sea.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli: A program for children.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja: A cartoon series.
6:30 — Le chevalier du labyrinthe: A game show program requiring talent and intelligence.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes: A classical music program.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Musicales: "Faust à Bercy": A musical program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique: "Banane": A documentary program about agriculture in Africa and the banana crop.

JEUDI

6:00 — Regard sur la démographie africaine: A documentary program about increasing population of Africa.
5:30 — Maguy: A comedy series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes: A classical music program.

VENREDI

5:30 — Vie en plumes, vie en plombs: The story of a young man who takes up a job at "La Jour" newspaper.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions: "Glaciers": Tonight's program is about the attempt to recapture water from the French Glaciers so as to fill a dam on the French-Swiss borders.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Your creativity is of major importance. Since influential people are receptive to your ideas, you can earn extra money. Someone may try to change your political views. Stand your ground.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Work is your top priority. Events in faraway places may have a direct effect on your financial fortunes. Indecision could cause monetary losses. Taking a short journey is probably your best option.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Planning for the future should be a top priority. Although working with figures is favoured now, handle money wisely. The cooling of a romance is for the best. A child's actions delight you.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Be careful not to injure someone's pride. Advice from experts may be helpful in this instance. If feeling blue, seek solitude until the mood passes. Rest and meditation will perk you up.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Move forward with confidence. Do not be awed by someone who strikes a superior attitude; be yourself. Your partner or mate may be in a difficult mood. Try to find out the cause.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): A close pal shares good news. Others are anxious to spend your money; resist them. A hunch is right on target. Follow up on it. A family friend opens new doors for you.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): You are inclined to over-extend yourself. Finish what you start. Opening new lines of communication will enhance a marriage. Give free rein to your creative talents. Save money for a rainy day.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): The opportunity to earn a higher salary makes you eager to change jobs. Real estate can be a wise investment. Health worries lessen. Travel is favoured this week. Remember to call home.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): You have considerable influence with others. A relative helps you with a financial matter. Joint ventures can pay big dividends; seek family's cooperation. Be more appreciative of home.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Plan work assignments on weekdays, then follow your schedule closely. Good news and interesting ink add zest to your weekend. A long-time debt may be repaid. A short trip is on the horizon.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Friends play a special role in your professional life. Family's cooperation is necessary to improve a financial situation. Male could make a special request. Comply without asking a lot of questions.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Innovations prove especially valuable in changing the business picture. Express yourself more clearly and you will reach your career goals sooner. New financial gains put you in a happy frame of mind.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are ambitious and enthusiastic but sometimes flighty. They must learn to channel their energies into one project at a time. A tendency to procrastinate should be nipped in the bud. Too often, these children will ignore helpful advice. They want to make their own choices and tend to block out suggestions. Charming and witty, they attract people like a magnet. Others love these light-hearted youngsters so much that they excuse or overlook their shortcomings.

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Tyche	671931
Trust	673312
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Avis-Jarrar	08/51000
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Thai Airways	604649
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

Activities

Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641953
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834353

Cinemas

Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Pizza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675571

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Assoc.	676990

Hotels

Crown	798181
Philadelphia	663100
Mariotti	660100
Regency	660000
Jerusalem	665094
Intercontinental	643161
Ambassador	665186
Commodor	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	671931
International	814712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	08/51000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111

Aqaba

Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340
Deas	314131
Coral Beach	315521
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Important Numbers

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Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence	271292
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
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Amman fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	630341
Police rescue	621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390
Electric Power Co.	636381/4
Water complaints	897467
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RJ Flight Info	08/53200

Hospitals

Husseini Medical Centre	813813
Khaled Maternity	644281/6
Akleh Maternity	644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	624362
Mahas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	641114
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	666127/37
The Islamic, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdali	777101/3
Al-Ahli, Muhajreen	891611/15
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

General

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